

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 3:1-12

The Second Sunday of Advent, Year A, RCL

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"**Repent** [μετανοεῖτε, **metanoēite**], for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'**Prepare** [ἐτοιμάσατε, **hetoimásate**] the way of the Lord,

make [ποιεῖτε, **poieíte**] his paths straight'."

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵The the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸**Bear** [ποιήσατε, **poiēsate**] fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children of Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees, every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." [NRSV89]

3:2

μετανοεῖτε, **metanoēite**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from μετανοέω

translations: **repent** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue, Albright & Mann, Filson], **arrepentíos** [IAdNT]

3:3

ἐτοιμάσατε, **hetoimásate**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἐτοιμάζω

translations: **prepare** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], **make ready** [Albright & Mann, Filson], **preparad** [IAdNT]

ποιεῖτε, **poieíte**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ποιέω

translations: **make** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue, Albright & Mann, Filson], **haced** [IAdNT]

3:8

ποιήσατε, **poiēsate**; vb: aor act **imperative** 2nd pers pl from ποιέω

translations: **bear** [NRSV89, ESV, NKJV, NRSVue, Albright & Mann], **haced** [IAdNT],

produce [NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, Filson]

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