Name: _____

REGULAR LESSON

The Voice in the Wilderness

TODAY'S BIG IDEA	John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repent: sorry for sin and trusting Jesus to forgive.
BIBLE READING	Mark 1:1–8; Isaiah 40:1–5
MEMORY VERSE	"Make ready the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!" (Mark 1:3)

1 Prophecy and fulfillment

Mark 1:1–3 The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you: the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!' "

1. **Mark combines two prophets. Can you find them?**

2 Who was John?

Mark 1:4–6 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. All the country of Judea and all those of Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

1. **Why do you think John lived in the wilderness and dressed so strangely?**

2. **People from Jerusalem walked a long way into the desert to hear John. Why would they go to hear someone tell them they were sinners?**

3 What is repentance?

"Repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven."

Augsburg Confession, Article XII · Read it in the Reading Room

1. **The Augsburg Confession says repentance has two parts. What are they?**

2. **Why isn't just saying "sorry" the whole thing?**

4 The one who is coming

Mark 1:7–8 He preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen. I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

1. **John was famous. Why did he keep pointing to someone else?**

2. **How can we be like John this week?**

5 Live it

A mountain in my life (pride, selfishness):

A valley in my life (worry, sadness):

My prayer:

Scripture: World English Bible (public domain). Free to print and copy.