

Jordanis oras praevia

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

John Chandler

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry soul from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Inspiration: Matthew 3: 3; Mark 1: 3, 3: 4-6; John 1: 15-28; "Jordanis oras praevia" by Charles Coffin, 1676-1749, in "Breviarium Parisiense" ("Paris Breviary"), 1736.
Lyrics: 88.88; John Chandler, 1806-1876, in his "Hymns of the Primitive Church", 1837; revised in "Hymns Ancient and Modern", 1861.