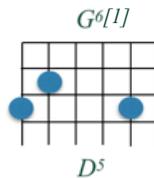


On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

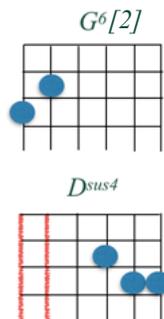
Words by Charles Coffin & Music by Michael Prätorius

G^{6[1]} *G* *C* *D⁵ D⁷ G*
 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry,
C *G^{6[2]} D⁵* *A D⁵*
 Announces that the Lord is nigh;
G *D⁵ G^{6[2]}* *C C^{maj7} D⁵*
 Awake and hearken for he brings,
G^{6[2]} G C^{maj7} G^{6[1]} G D^{sus4} D G
 Glad ti-dings of the King of kings!



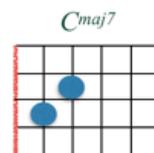
G^{6[1]} *G* *C* *D⁵ D⁷ G*
 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand,
C *G^{6[2]} D⁵* *A D⁵*
 And make the fallen strong to stand;
G *D⁵ G^{6[2]} C C^{maj7} D⁵*
 Show us the glory of Thy face,
G^{6[2]} G C^{maj7} G^{6[1]} G D^{sus4} D G
 Till beauty springs in ev- - ery place.

G^{6[1]} *G* *C* *D⁵ D⁷ G*
 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
C *G^{6[2]} D⁵* *A D⁵*
 Make straight the way for God within,
G *D⁵ G^{6[2]} C C^{maj7} D⁵*
 And let us all our hearts pre - pare,
G^{6[2]} G C^{maj7} G^{6[1]} G D^{sus4} D G
 For Christ to come and en - - ter there.



G^{6[1]} *G* *C* *D⁵ D⁷ G*
 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
C *G^{6[2]} D⁵* *A D⁵*
 Whose ad-vent sets Thy people free,
G *D⁵ G^{6[2]} C C^{maj7} D⁵*
 Whom with the Father we a - - - dore,
G^{6[2]} G C^{maj7} G^{6[1]} G D^{sus4} D G
 And Ho-ly Spi- - rit, e - - - ver more.

G^{6[1]} *G* *C* *D⁵ D⁷ G*
 We hail Thee as our Sa-vior, Lord,
C *G^{6[2]} D⁵* *A D⁵*
 Our re-fuge and our great re-ward;
G *D⁵ G^{6[2]} C C^{maj7} D⁵*
 Without Thy grace we waste a - - - way,
G^{6[2]} G C^{maj7} G^{6[1]} G D^{sus4} D G
 Like flowers that wi - - ther and de-cay.



Scripture and History

Matthew 3: 1-12 In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea [and] saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert,
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’”

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



Charles Coffin
Image from hymnary.org

Charles Coffin wrote the lyrics for “**On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry.**” He was born at Buzaney (Ardennes) in 1676, died 1749, was principal of the college at Beauvais in 1712 and rector of the University of Paris in 1718. He published in 1727 some of his Latin poems and in 1736 the bulk of his 100 hymns appeared in the *Paris Breviary* of that year.

Michael Präetorius is the composer of PUER NOBIS NASCITUR used in hymn 96 of the Lutheran hymnal.



Michael Präetorius
Image from hymnary.org

by John Julian, *Dictionary of Hymnology* (1907)

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