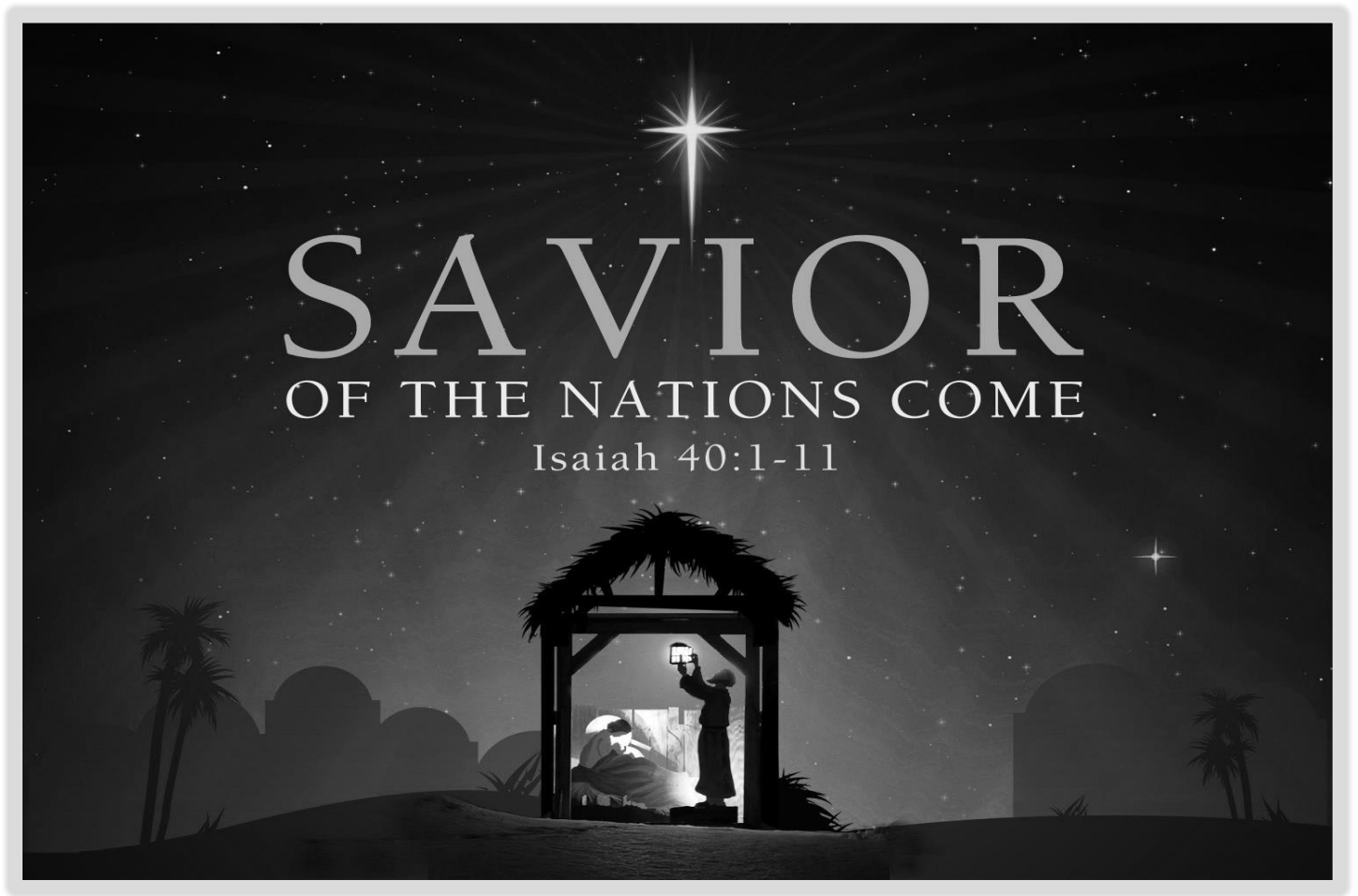


**Midweek Advent 1:
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
December 4, 2024**



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

AS WE GATHER

The prophet writes in Isaiah 40:1, “Comfort, comfort my people.” Gone is the scornful “this people” of Isaiah 6:9. Now it’s “my people!” The words explode with comfort, for this is God’s covenant promise, “I will be your God, and you will be my people” (Exodus 6:7). Comfort comes in Isaiah 40:1 and comfort appears in the words of Isaiah 40:11, “He will tend his flock like a Shepherd.”

The PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & RINGING OF THE BELLS

INVOCATION

P In the Name of our God, Who was, and is, and is to come:

C **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In Advent, we celebrate the faithfulness of God. He has always been true to His Word. He promised to pierce our darkness with His light, and fulfilled that promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Light of the world.

C **Come, Lord Jesus. Come and be the light in our lives.**

P Let Your light shine in us,

C **And scatter the darkness of our sinfulness.**

P Let Your light shine through us,

C **That others may see You within us.**

P Let Your light shine on us,

C **And fill us with joy and peace.**

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **The light no darkness can overcome.**

HYMN

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331 sts. 1–3, 5

1. The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
2. The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.
3. O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
5. Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749
Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*based upon Isaiah 53:6 and 40:1–2*)

P All we like sheep have gone astray;

C **Each of us has turned to his own way;**

P And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have turned away from each other in our speaking, thinking and doing.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have turned away from you in stubbornness and sinful pride.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

P “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins” (*Isaiah 40:1–2*). Christ's blood was shed for you and His comfort is yours—freely and everlastingly. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **All we like sheep have gone astray;**

P Each of us has turned to his own way;

All: **And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1–2

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 1:3–10

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. ⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:1–15

¹ When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. ² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “ ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

1. “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.
3. Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
4. Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.



Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

OFFERING

For those worshipping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>



For those worshipping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.

OFFERING HYMN

Angels Singing In The Heavens

(Sung to Angels from the Realms of Glory - LSB 367)

1. Angels singing in the heavens,
Of the Savior promised long;
Ev'ry heart shall open to Him,
Ev'ry voice lift high in song.
He is coming! He is coming!
Ev'ry voice life high in song.
2. Mighty God in flesh appearing,
Prince of Peace, oh, enter in.
With the message of salvation:
We no more are slaves to sin.
Everlasting, changeless Savior,
We no more are slaves to sin.
3. Glory, laud, all honor, blessing
To the Prince whose reign will come.
Praise and thanks and adoration,
Father, Son, and Spirit, One.
He is coming! He is coming!
Prince of Peace, Thy will be done.



Text: Public domain

PRAYERS

Based Upon Psalm 23

P Lord, hear us as we pray:

C **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul.

C **He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

C **For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**



1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.
8. Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

SILENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, dumb, dirty and defenseless sums up where we're at. Thank you, though, that in Jesus Christ we are, all the more, delivered! In Jesus' Name. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731332.