

LESSON: ISAIAH 40.1-8

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. 6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all un-

derstanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

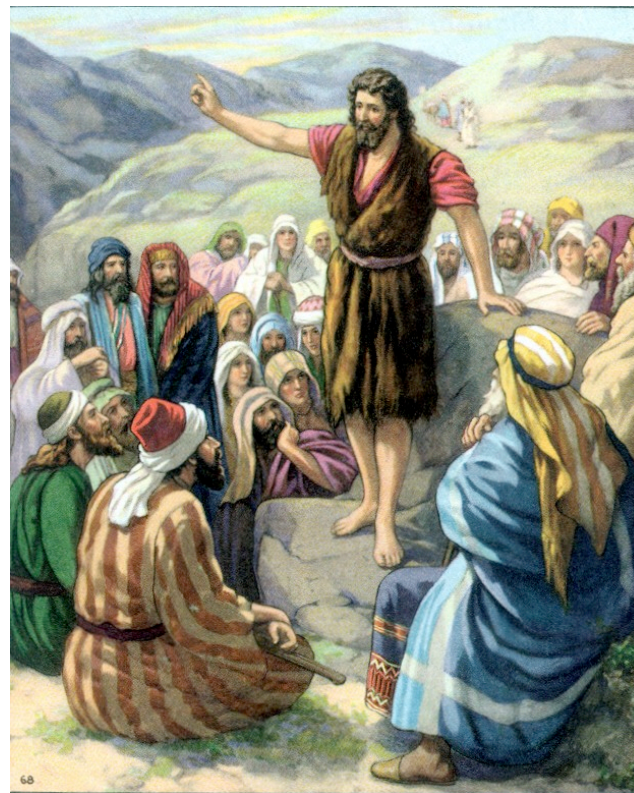
GOSPEL: JOHN 1:19-28

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? 20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. 22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? 23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. 24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? 26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; 27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.



## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER MISSOURI SYNOD

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**The Rev. William P. Terjesen, Pastor**  
**Stephanie R. Jonas, Organist**



**The Approaching Joy**  
My soul doth magnify the LORD,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior  
*Luke 1.46-47*

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday  
in Advent

**THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION, PP. 15-31**

<i>Prelude</i>	
HYMN	<b># 95</b>
CONFESSION THROUGH CREED	pp. 15-22
Introit & Collect	p. 55
Lessons	<i>(back page)</i>
Gradual	p. 55
Nicene Creed	p. 22
HYMN of the Week	<b># 62</b>
Sermon	
Offertory	p. 22
General Prayer	
<i>Who may commune here? Communicant members in good standing in this and other Missouri Synod* congregations.</i>	
Communion HYMN	<b># 60</b>
Preface through Distribution	pp. 24-29
Post-communion	pp. 29-31
Closing Doxology	<b># 644</b>
<i>Postlude</i>	

Today's Usher: *Larry England*

Today's ALTAR FLOWERS - are given to the glory of God by Cheryl Southern.

*\*The Association of American Lutheran Churches, the Lutheran Church - Canada, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, and the Ev. Lutheran Church of Haiti, are in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Missouri Synod.*

THIS WEEK

- **Christmas Eve**, Dec. 24th, Candlelight Vespers, 7:30pm.
- **Christmas**, Dec. 25th, Christmas Communion, 10:30am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SHEPHERDS' CANDLE is lit to remind us that the Bethlehem shepherds were the first to hear the Gospel of the NT. We are also reminded that this message is from Heaven.

Solo: *Comfort, Comfort Ye*, sung by Sally Corey, after the Lesson.

A 4 ADVENT PRAYER  
by *Veit Dietrich*

Lord God, heavenly Father, it is meet and right that we should give thanks unto Thee, that Thou hast given us a more glorious baptism than that of John the Baptist, and hast therein promised us the remission of sins, the Holy Spirit, and everlasting life through Thy Son, Jesus Christ: Preserve us, we beseech Thee, in such faith in Thy grace and mercy, that we may never doubt Thy promise, but be comforted by the same in all temptations: and grant us Thy Holy Spirit that we may renounce sin, and ever continue in the righteousness bestowed upon us in baptism, until by Thy grace we obtain eternal salvation, through the same, Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

NOTES & QUOTES

Now, if you are able to believe that this voice of John speaks the truth, and if you are able to follow his finger and recognize the Lamb of God carrying your sin, then you have gained the victory, then you are a Christian, a master of sin, death, hell, and all things. Then your conscience will rejoice and become heartily fond of this gentle Lamb of God. Then will you love, praise, and give thanks to our heavenly Father for this infinite wealth of his mercy, preached by John and given in Christ. And finally you will become cheerful and willing to do his divine will, as best you can, with all your strength. For what lovelier and more comforting message can be heard than that our sins are not ours any more, that they no more lie on us, but on the Lamb of God. How can sin condemn such an innocent Lamb? Lying on him, it must be vanquished and made to nothing, and likewise death and hell, being the reward of sin, must be vanquished also. Behold what God our Father has given us in Christ!

*Sermons of Martin Luther - The Church Postils*, Vol. 1. Sermon for Fourth Sunday in Advent, pp. 132f.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- Psalms - 116 - 118; 119 aleph through dalet
- OT - Daniel 6-12
- NT - 1 Thessalonians 3-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3; 1 Timothy 1