

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

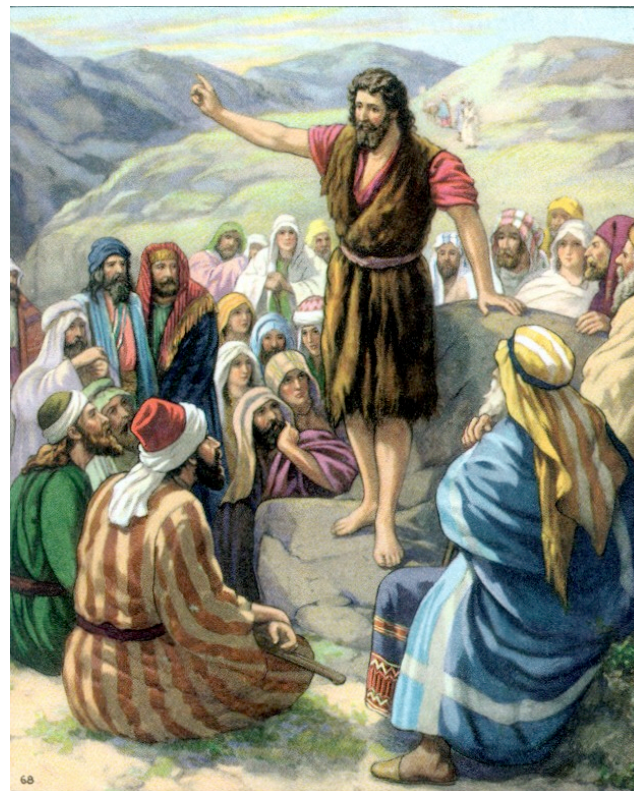
GOSPEL: JOHN 1:19-28

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.



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

December 19, 2021

**4th Sunday
in Advent**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION, PP. 15-31

Prelude

HYMN	# 66
Confession through Creed	pp. 15-22
Introit & Collect	p. 55
Lessons	(back page)
Gradual	p. 55
Nicene Creed	p. 22
HYMN of the Week	# 61

Sermon

Offertory p. 22

Offering

We Give Thee but Thine Own # 441, vs. 1

General Prayer

*Who may commune here? Communicant members in good standing
in this and other Missouri Synod* congregations.*

Communion HYMN	# 62
Preface through Distribution	pp. 24-29
Post-communion	pp. 29-31
Closing DOXOLOGY	# 644

Postlude

Today's Usher: *Rich Pfeifer*

Today's ALTAR FLOWERS - are given to the glory of God by Gail Franko. BAPTISTRY FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Norma & Paul Fox.

**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

- Today, 9am, Sunday School
- Today, 9:15am, Bible class
- Wednesday, 10am, Bible class
- Friday, 7:30pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight service
- Saturday, 10:30am, Christmas Day Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SHEPHERDS' CANDLE is a reminder that the shepherds of Bethlehem were the first to hear the Gospel of the NT proclaimed from heaven by the angel of the Lord, and celebrated by the heavenly host as they watched and listened.

Please note the times for Christmas services this week.

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.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- Psalms - 119 Qoph - Tau
- OT - 2 Samuel 23-24; 1 Kings 1-5
- NT - Hebrews 7-13