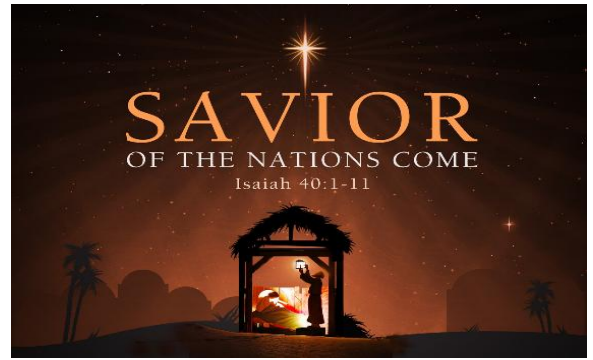


NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • 8:30 AM • FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE



Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates. **Holy Communion** questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table* or near the bulletins.

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."

WELCOME/ VIDEO

"Come and See, Hope" – Skit Guys

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

OPENING HYMN

331 "The Advent of Our King"

- 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.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite; With Him in heav'n to reign.

Text and tune: Public domain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

[One purple candle is lit.]

P In Advent, we celebrate the faithfulness of God. He is 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(cont.)*

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.

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 Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C All we like sheep have gone astray;

P Each of us has turned to his own way;

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

GREETING

KYRIE

P For peace in our hearts, for peace in the church, and for peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

P For mercy to forgive the sins of one another, and for mercy for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

P For grace to rule our unruly wills, for grace to be found faithful when He comes at the end of all time, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

P For hope to bear cheerful witness to Christ before the world, and for hope to sustain us in the hour of trial, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

331 *“The Advent of Our King”*

5 Before the dawning day; Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one; Through all eternity.

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING - *(The bold section is read together.)*

Isaiah 40:1-11

(Comfort Given to God's People.)

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 1:3-10

(God of All Comfort.)

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.

Please Stand

VERSE

Psalm 119:81-82

P My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.

C My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:1-15

(Messengers from John the Baptist.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated – Children Dismissed for Children's Church

MESSAGE HYMN

347 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text and tune: Public domain

MESSAGE

Please Stand – Children return from Children's Church

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Prayer response after each petition...)*

P Come, Lord Jesus,
C **Show us Your glory.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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

Numbers 6:24–26

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 + give you peace.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be

That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004392
Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

Into the world, making a clear confession of Christ...

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

Pastor Pastor Rev. Jason Hoerth
Children's Message Chris Graves
Deaconess Intern Julia Witt
Elder Robert Buckingham

Reader Elizabeth Hoffman
Musician EunYoung Lee
Acolyte Bella Schwartz



Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Parts created by *Lutheran Service Builder* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C 2025, Quarter 4 Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. LSB Lic. # 100012717. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 102268. Used by permission.

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.