

Isaiah 40:1-8

¹“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. ²“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’s hand Double for all her sins.” ³The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; ⁵The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people *are* grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the

peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 1:19-28

¹⁹Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said: “I *am* ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,” ’

as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷“It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” ²⁸These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Introit.**

Ant. DROP DOWN, || ye heavens, | from | a- | bove:
and let the skies pour | down | righ- | teous- | ness.
Let the | earth | o- | pen: and bring | forth | sal- | va- | tion.
Psalm. || The heavens declare the glo- | ry | of | God:
and the firmament showeth | His | hand- | y- | work.
GLO- RY || be to the Father and | to | the | Son:
and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.
AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ev- | er | shall | be:
world with- | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. repeated.*)

Collect.

Stir up, O Lord, we beseech Thee, Thy power, and come, and with great might succor us, that by the help of Thy grace whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished, though Thy mercy and satisfaction; Who livest and reignest with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.* (*Also: Collect for First Sunday in Advent*)

Epistle. Philippians 4:4-7.**Gospel. John 1:19-28.****Gradual.**

|| The Lord is nigh unto all them that call | up- | on | Him:
to all that call up- | on | Him- | in | truth.
|| My mouth shall speak the praise | of | the | LORD:
And let all flesh bless | His | Ho- - | ly | Name.
|| Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Thou art my help and my de- | liv- | er- | er:
make no tarrying, O my God. | Hal- | le- | lu- | jah.

Rorate - 4th Sunday in Advent

4. To Jordan Came Our Lord, the Christ

Dr. Martin Luther, 1543
Richard Massie, Tr. a

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam
8, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, 7
J. Walther, 1524

1. To Jor-dan came our Lord, the Christ, To do God's plea-sure
2. So hear ye all, and well per-ceive What God doth call a

will - ing, And there was by Saint John bap - tized,
Bap - ti - sm, And what a Chris - tian should be - lieve

All righ - teous - ness ful - fill - ing; There did He
Who er - ror shuns and schi - sm. That we should

con-se-crate a bath To wash a - way trans-gres - sion,
wa-ter use, the Lord De - clar - eth in His plea - sure,

And quench the bit - ter - ness of death By His own blood and
Not sim - ple wa - ter, but the Word And Spi - rit with - out

pas - sion; He would a new life give us.
mea - sure;— He is the true Bap - ti - zer. A - men.

3. To show us this, He hath His Word
With signs and symbols given;
On Jordan's banks was plainly heard
The Father's voice from heaven:
"This is my well-belovéd Son,
In whom My soul delighteth;
Hear Him!" Yea, hear Him ev'ry one,
Whom He Himself inviteth;
Hear and obey His teaching!

4. In tender manhood God the Son
In Jordan's water standeth;
The Holy Ghost from heaven's throne
In dove-like form descendeth;
That thus the truth be not denied,
Nor should our faith e'er waver,
That all three Persons do preside
At Baptism's holy laver,
And dwell with the believer.

5. Thus Jesus His disciples sent
Go, teach ye ev'ry nation,
That, lost in sin, they must repent,
And flee from condemnation;
He that believes and is baptized
Shall thereby have salvation,
A new-born man he is in Christ,
From death free and damnation,
He shall inherit heaven.

6. Who in this mercy hath not faith
Nor aught therein discerneth,
Is yet in sin, condemned to death
And fire that ever burneth;
His holiness avails him not,
Nor aught which he is doing;
His inborn sin brings all to naught,
And maketh sure his ruin;
Himself he cannot succor.

7. The eye of sense alone is dim,
And nothing sees but water;
Faith sees Christ Jesus, and in Him
The Lamb ordained for slaughter;
It sees the cleansing fountain, red
With the dear blood of Jesus,
Which from the sins, inherited
From fallen Adam, frees us,
And from our own misdoings.