

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, beginning at the 1st verse.

This passage may be found in the pew bible on page 828.

**[PAUSE]** “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God.

“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.”

The voice of one crying in  
the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make straight in the desert  
A highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted  
And every mountain and hill  
brought low;

The crooked places shall be  
made straight

And the rough places smooth;

The glory of the LORD shall  
be revealed,

And all flesh shall see *it* together;  
For the mouth of the LORD has  
spoken.”

The 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.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
Because the breath of the LORD blows  
upon it;

Surely the people *are* grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
But the word of our God  
stands forever.”

O Zion,

You who bring good tidings,  
Get up into the high mountain;

**O Jerusalem,**

**You who bring good tidings,**

**Lift up your voice with strength,**

**Lift *it* up, be not afraid;**

**Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold  
your God!”**

**Behold, the Lord GOD shall come  
with a strong *hand*,**

**And His arm shall rule for Him;**

Behold, His reward *is* with Him,

And His work before Him.

He will feed His flock like a shepherd;

He will gather the lambs with His arm,

And carry *them* in His bosom,

*And* gently lead those who are with  
young.

**[PAUSE]** This is the word of the Lord.

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

### The Psalter – Psalm 80:1-19

HEAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; \* show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up thy strength, and come and help us.

Turn us again, O God; \* show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O LORD God of hosts, \* how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears, \* and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, thou God of hosts; \* show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt; \* thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

Thou madest room for it; \* and when it had taken root, it filled the land.

The hills were covered with the shadow of it, \* and the boughs thereof were like

the goodly cedar-trees.

She stretched out her branches unto the sea, \* and her boughs unto the River.

Why hast thou then broken down her hedge, \* that all they that go by pluck off her grapes?

The wild boar out of the wood doth root it up, \* and the wild beasts of the field devour it.

Turn thee again, thou God of hosts, look down from heaven, \* behold, and visit this vine;

And the place of the vineyard that thy right hand hath planted, \* and the branch that thou madest so strong for thyself.

It is burnt with fire, and cut down; \* and they shall perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, \* and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

And so will not we go back from thee: \* let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.

Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts; \* show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

### The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The reading from the fourth chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, chapter 4, beginning at the 4th verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 95.

**[PAUSE]** Rejoice in the Lord always:  
and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto  
all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be anxious for nothing; but in every  
thing by prayer and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth  
all understanding, shall keep your  
hearts and minds through Christ  
Jesus.

**[PAUSE]** This is the word of the Lord