



2nd Sunday of Advent Isaiah 40:8

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Call to worship Psalm 46: 8-11

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."
¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Hymn "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" ELW #249

Hymn will be played. You may hum along.

Lighting the Advent Candle—Hope Candle

Each Sunday in Advent we light a candle to remember that Jesus is the light of our life and of this hurting world. Today we light the candle of Hope.



Let us pray. In the ways know that

dark, do not fear. Al-God is near. God is

with you day and night, in the dark and in the light. Thank you, Mighty God, for the gift of hope. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when 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 will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" ELW #256

Hymn will be played. You may hum along.

Prayer

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you. Leader will lead the prayer.

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Delbert Scheider, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Lois Paulsen, Taylor B., Gene Hesselbacher, Lisa Wienand, Connor Stadermann, Jaden, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Deb Lindeman Harder, Paul Heller, Dave Heinkel, Cindy Tessendorf, the Heimann Family, Janet, Lori, J.T., Dan and Sue White, Ryse Stone, Harry Perra Jr, Nicole, Meghan, Kelly Thurman, Tom, Brian Gobeli, John, Jerred, Bronwein, Matt and Julie, Susan Anderson, Chuck, Joyce, Marcia, Deb, Mary Gerbode, Terri, Carla, Tina, Julie, Karla, J.T., Annie, Jamie, Penny Day, Crystal Jesse Becke, Sue, Pastor Art Stees Carl Watson, Tina Diddens and Lena Living Center. We pray for those serving overseas, especially Kyle.

Prayer will conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Leader will lead the Lord's Prayer and you may pray in silence.

Sending

God bless us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing and Dismissal

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. Amen. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. Amen. P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" ELW #254