

## DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your heart, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on your path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### THE FIRST LESSON -Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 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. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every 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. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." The Word of God Stands Forever 6 A 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. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Get you 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!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He 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. *ESV*

### THE RESPONSIVE READING – Psalms 85: 1-13

- 1 LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah
- 3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- 6 Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- 8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- 9 Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- 11 Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- 12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

### THE SECOND LESSON – 2 Peter 3:8-14

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 13 Now who is there

to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled. *ESV*

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL – Mark 1: 1-8**

**1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **2** As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, **3** the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" **4** John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8** I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." *ESV*

### **HYMNS**

Awake, Awake & Greet the new morn	WOV 633
Light One Candle (verse 2)	WOV 630
On Jordan's Banks	LBW 36
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	WOV 649
Hark the Glad Sound	LBW 35