

SAVIOR
SERVANT
FRIEND



COMFORTER

Mid-Week Lenten Service

April 9th, 2025

Christ Lutheran Church

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MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE—WEEK SIX

Savior, Servant, Friend—Comforter

April 9, 2025

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Week 6 of Lent, we look to Jesus who comforts us in struggles and sorrows that we might find rest in His promises.

*“I have called you friends, for all that I have heard
from my Father I have made known to you.” ~ John 15:15*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: By God’s gracious invitation, we gather together in the presence of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Comfort, comfort My people

All: Says your God. (Isaiah 40:1)

Pastor: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

All: I will fear no evil

Pastor: For You are with me

All: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

Pastor: This is my comfort in my affliction,

All: That Your promise gives me life. (Psalm 119:50)

Pastor: Let Your steadfast love comfort me

All: According to Your promise to Your servant. (Psalm 119:76)

OPENING HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

“Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.”

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

Hark, the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that His Word is never broken.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Sin threatens to separate us from the comfort we have in our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus.

All: Lord Jesus, hear us now as we confess our sins to You.

Pastor: We have sought comfort and peace in all the wrong places.

All: We have tried to comfort ourselves by our desires and lusts.

Pastor: We have failed to comfort others as we should.

All: We have torn down and harmed, slandered and lied.

Pastor: We have found no comfort or peace in our sin and shame.

All: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the discomfort of sin and the comforting assurance of Christ's forgiveness.)

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God! Our Friend, Jesus, faced the discomfort and pain of the cross in order to forgive us of all our sins. In the stead and by the command of our Friend, Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins and the comforting assurance that are set free from sin and shame.

All: What a Friend we have in Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

† GOD'S WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

(ESV page 727)

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:

look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

(ESV page 1145)

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:17-27

(ESV page 1067)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

PREPARATION HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail and mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail in heaven’s joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

SERMON

“Comforter”

John 11:17-27

OFFERING (*You are invited to place your financial gifts to the Lord in the offering plates as they are passed through the pews. You can also give your one-time or recurring gifts to the Lord through the "Vanco Mobile" app for your phone or by clicking on the "Give" tab on our website.*)

OFFERTORY

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

[Piano Solo]

PRAYERS

Each petition concludes with the following response:

Pastor: Lord,

All: Hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in Jesus’ name and as He has taught us:

All: 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

Pastor: Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. And, so, receive this blessing: The Lord bless and comfort you in all your afflictions so that you can be a blessing and a comfort to all in their afflictions. Amen.

All: What a Friend we have in Jesus!

CLOSING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

**Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

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