

## The Second Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 7, 2025

### “The Light is Coming ~ Preparing For the Light”

#### Isaiah 40:1-1 & Mark 1:1-8

That’s what Advent is all about: preparing for Someone \_\_\_\_\_. Not a houseguest, but the Lord of heaven and earth, the One whose light we said last week is already on the horizon.

We hold both truths together: God ‘s coming brings \_\_\_\_\_ to the weary and calls for a \_\_\_\_\_ of heart because Advent is the season when God’s grace and God’s holiness meet in perfect \_\_\_\_\_.

### PREPARING FOR THE LIGHT: 3 MOVEMENTS

**Movement #1. We prepare by \_\_\_\_\_ God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...” (Isaiah 40:1-2)

For 39 chapters, Isaiah has delivered the bad news of God’s judgement, as a \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel’s sin and disobedience. However, in chapter 40, God’s anger has subsided and the prophet’s \_\_\_\_\_ changes.

***nacham* = comfort =**

The repetition here is deliberate, it’s \_\_\_\_\_ emphasis. What I mean by that is, God isn’t whispering a wish, He’s issuing a \_\_\_\_\_.

***leb* = tenderly =**

The comfort of God isn’t just a soft blanket thrown over sin, but the strong assurance that \_\_\_\_\_ has been secured.

That’s the gospel in miniature: before Israel could find her way back to God, God was already making His way \_\_\_\_\_ her.

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:3)

the “highway” he describes isn’t carved through a literal desert, it’s built in the human \_\_\_\_\_. It’s the Highway of \_\_\_\_\_. And God isn’t demanding civil engineering, He’s calling for a \_\_\_\_\_ clearing.

- Every valley of discouragement and \_\_\_\_\_ that has swallowed faith must be

lifted up with \_\_\_\_\_ and renewed trust.

- Every mountain of pride and \_\_\_\_\_ must be brought low through \_\_\_\_\_.

- The crooked places of \_\_\_\_\_ and sin must be straightened by repentance and \_\_\_\_\_.

- The rough places of hardness and \_\_\_\_\_ must be softened by \_\_\_\_\_ and forgiveness.

That’s how we prepare for the Lord’s coming—not by \_\_\_\_\_ polish, but by inner \_\_\_\_\_, by letting His grace reshape the landscape within us.

God doesn’t wait for us to find our way back to civilization—He \_\_\_\_\_ us right where we’re at. He comes to us in the \_\_\_\_\_ places, in the dry stretches of our hearts, and begins His work there.

The wilderness, in Scripture, isn’t a punishment, as we might think, it’s a place of \_\_\_\_\_.

Notice also how comfort and \_\_\_\_\_ go hand in hand, and how Isaiah weaves these two thing together.

He comforts by \_\_\_\_\_, and He forgives to \_\_\_\_\_. Grace isn’t permission to stay the same, it’s power to become something \_\_\_\_\_.

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)

When we receive God’s comfort, we’re also receiving His call to \_\_\_\_\_. What I mean by that is, Advent comfort isn’t a lullaby, it’s a \_\_\_\_\_ call whispered with love.

“Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.” (Isaiah 40:5)

That’s the ultimate goal of comfort and repentance—the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s glory.

That’s what Advent is for: to make room for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to be seen again, not just at Bethlehem, but in His Church, in our lives, and in the world

**Movement #2. We prepare by \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

“As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the baptizer appeared

in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."  
(Mark 1:2-4)

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark's gospel doesn't ease in gently, but bursts onto the scene with\_\_\_\_\_.

It starts not with\_\_\_\_\_, but with\_\_\_\_\_because before the world can receive the Light of Christ, it must first recognize its\_\_\_\_\_for it.

The place of desolation becomes the place of\_\_\_\_\_. The place of dryness becomes the place of\_\_\_\_\_.

Repentance is often misunderstood as being all about guilt,\_\_\_\_\_, or moral regret, about wallowing in one's own\_\_\_\_\_, and whipping one's self into submission.

***metanoia* = repentance =**

True repentance isn't a doorway into\_\_\_\_\_, it's the path back\_\_\_\_\_. John doesn't thunder condemnation, he announces\_\_\_\_\_.

Repentance isn't God rubbing our faces in our\_\_\_\_\_, it's Him opening the door of\_\_\_\_\_. It's not punishment, it's\_\_\_\_\_. When we repent, we're not earning forgiveness, we're making space to\_\_\_\_\_it.

It's not about wallowing in guilt and shame, it's not about earning God's love, it's about removing the\_\_\_\_\_that keep His Spirit from resonating through our lives.

Although John's baptism symbolized cleansing, it was also about\_\_\_\_\_.

It wasn't about perfection, it was about\_\_\_\_\_. It wasn't about the externals of religion, but internals and their\_\_\_\_\_. It was about\_\_\_\_\_before holiness.

That's what Advent repentance looks like: not beating ourselves up, but opening ourselves up. Not looking back in shame, but looking forward in\_\_\_\_\_.

John's baptism could wash the body, but only Christ's coming could cleanse the\_\_\_\_\_. John could announce forgiveness, but only Jesus could\_\_\_\_\_it. That's why repentance isn't an end in itself—it's a\_\_\_\_\_to grace.

We respond the same way those crowds did, by\_\_\_\_\_towards the One who is coming.

The second way we can respond is by letting the voice in the wilderness reach us where we live, and allowing God's call to\_\_\_\_\_to become a song of renewal in our lives.

**Movement #3. We prepare by\_\_\_\_\_God's\_\_\_\_\_.**

"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 40:5)

"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals." (Mark 1:7)

John the Baptist's entire ministry pointed\_\_\_\_\_from himself. He was the voice, not the Word, the herald, not the King. He never tried to steal the spotlight, he simply made sure the light fell where it\_\_\_\_\_.

When the hearts of God's people are comforted by grace and cleansed through repentance, they become\_\_\_\_\_of His glory—living\_\_\_\_\_of the light of Christ in a darkened world.

That's the heart of true holiness:\_\_\_\_\_. John didn't see himself as the hero of the story; he saw himself as the\_\_\_\_\_.

This is the paradox of the Kingdom: the lower we bow, the\_\_\_\_\_we shine. Humility doesn't dim the glory of God, it\_\_\_\_\_it.

Our world doesn't need louder Christians, it needs\_\_\_\_\_ones. And brightness comes not from pride, but from\_\_\_\_\_to the Light Himself.

When God's comfort and repentance have done their work, the result is\_\_\_\_\_: the glory of the Lord seen in His people.

We have no light apart from\_\_\_\_\_, but when we turn our faces toward Him, His radiance\_\_\_\_\_us, and we begin to glow with a borrowed brightness that points others to Him.

Advent preparation isn't just personal, it's\_\_\_\_\_. When the Church lives as a people of comfort, repentance, and humility, the world begins to glimpse what God is like.



**Are we preparing room?**

**Are we allowing the Word of God to straighten anything in us that has wandered? Are we making space, not only in our homes and calendars, but in our souls?**