



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

**12-10-23 : 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Theme: Comfort, Prepare, Acknowledge, Proclaim**

## *Isaiah 40:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." <sup>9</sup>You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; ay to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup>He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

1. "Comfort, comfort" are imperative verb forms calling for someone to comfort God's people. Describe a time when either you were able to give comfort or be comforted by someone else.
2. How do verses 1-2 affirm the main themes of our Lutheran theology?
3. Put yourself into the shoes of God's people after Jerusalem and the temple had been destroyed, and they were carried off to captivity in Babylon. Now in exile, how would these verses resonate?
4. "Speak tenderly..." This is the way God tells messengers to speak to us. How does it call us to reform the way we speak to others, especially believers?
5. In verse 3, a voice cries out to "prepare the way of the Lord." In ancient times, forerunners would go out to make a road suitable for a king to travel on it. How does this preparation take place in the lives of believers today?
6. In verse 6, Isaiah says, "All people are like grass and their faithfulness like the flowers of the field." Give some reasons for why we don't like to acknowledge this fact?
7. Isaiah calls for those who bring good news to go up a mountain and shout, "Here is your God!" Why does Christmas provide an excellent opportunity for bringing good news to the hurting?
8. What truths will you take from this whole section to quiet your doubts, fears, and accusations toward God when trouble comes the next time?