

ADVENT WEEK TWO
ISAIAH 40:1-11

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, 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.

Comfort – what we all seek, in our daily lives and in times of trouble or sorrow. And our greatest source of comfort is our faith in a constant and loving God. In Isaiah 40 God’s comfort is sought for the people of Jerusalem as He rescued them from captivity in Babylonia, a captivity that was a punishment for all their sins. God’s comfort is His recompense to the people.

Humanity is like the grass and the flowers; it withers and dies, but the word of God is eternal, just as is his mercy and comfort. His arm is strong and “rules for him”, but that same arm will “gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom”. In Advent we await the greatest comfort of all, God made incarnate through his son Jesus Christ. God’s word made flesh.

Dear Lord,

Keep us ever mindful of your mercy, and comfort us in our search for your truth and salvation. We too often lose sight of what Christ’s birth and sacrifice mean for us as humans. We will all wither and die but we will live in His arms. In this very unusual Advent and Christmas season may we all remember that it is not the presents that make it special, but it is His presence still among us. Amen