First Reading (December 6, 2026)

Isaiah 40:1-11 (ESV)

If you are comfortable, please say: "Good morning, I'm [NAME], and our first reading today is from Isaiah." If you prefer, say: "Our first reading today is from Isaiah."

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,

that she has received from the Lord's hand

double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

First Reading (December 6, 2026) continued

Isaiah 40:1-11 (ESV)

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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.

The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the Lord blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

First Reading (December 6, 2026) continued

Isaiah 40:1-11 (ESV)

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Go on 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!"

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

First Reading (December 6, 2026) continued

Isaiah 40:1-11 (ESV)

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading (December 6, 2026)

Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

Please stand as you are able to honor Jesus and the Gospel.
The Gospel According to Mark

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he

Gospel Reading (December 6, 2026) continued

Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

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. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

READER: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated. We invite all kids to come up for the kids' message. Parents and caregivers, you are welcome to come up with your child as well.