December 10, 2023—Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day:
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

First Reading — Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's
hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a
highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD
shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is
like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD
blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of
our God will stand forever. 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up
your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the
cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for
him: his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He 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.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — 2 Peter 3:8-15a
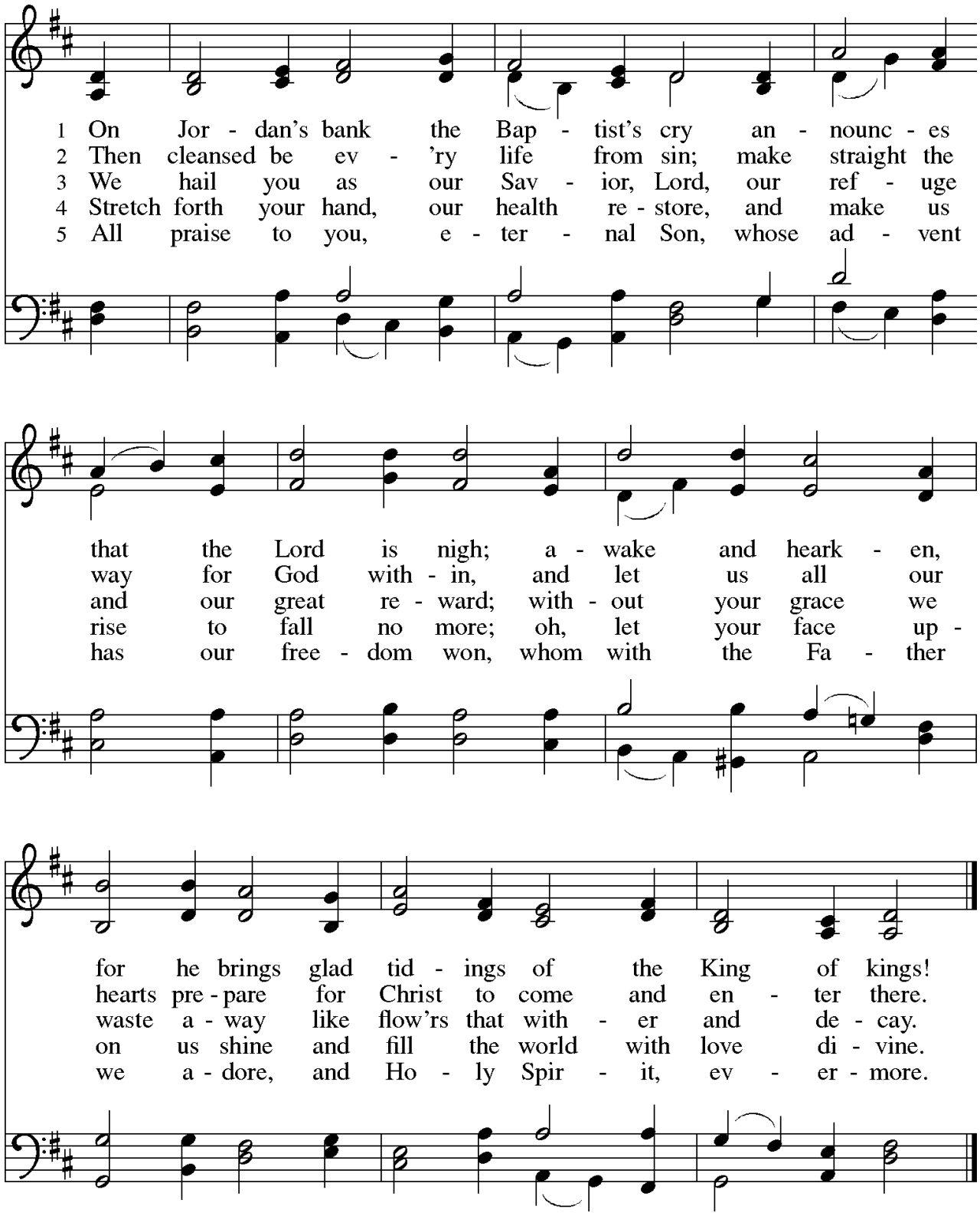
8 Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a
thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of
slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10 But
the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise,
and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will
be disclosed.
11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in
leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with
fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where

righteousness is at home.
[14]Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; [15a]and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.
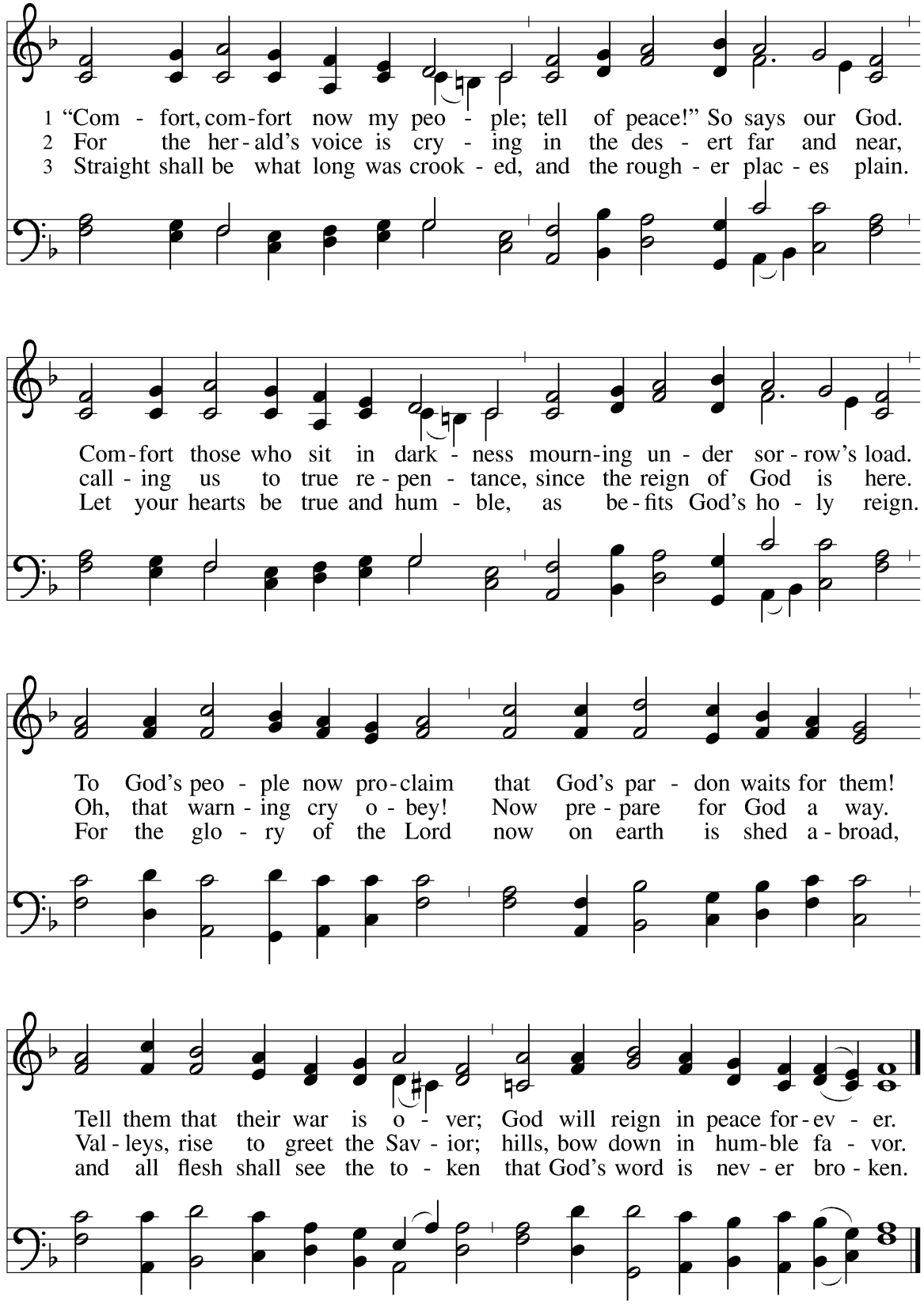
Gospel — Mark 1:1-8

[1]The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
[2]As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
[3]the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"
[4]John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5]And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7]He proclaimed, "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. [8]I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day ELW #249 "*On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*"



Closing Hymn ELW #256 *"Comfort, Comfort, Now My People"*



Announcements

Church Greening

Following worship today, we will green the church following worship. We will put up the tree, hang wreaths and garland, and make sure the sanctuary and exterior of the church is ready for the Christmas season! Please stay and join us!

Children's Christmas Sale

The Children's Christmas sale will take place following worship today in the two-year old room downstairs (off the kitchen). Children will be able to shop for their family members with all items being sold for $1. Adults will help children shop for and wrap their gifts.

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held today in the gym in conjunction with fellowship hour. This is a great opportunity to purchase platters of baked goods for all your holiday parties and other functions, as well as shop for Christmas gifts for your family and friends – or even for yourself! Stay after worship today and shop!

Christmas Spectacular with Lakeshore Brass

Join us for some Christmas music and fun on Friday, December 15th at 7pm. Lakeshore Brass quintet is back for another Christmas Spectacular with special guests Marisa Buchheit, soprano, and Benjamin Burney, tenor. Tickets are $15/person and children 10 years and younger are free. Cider and cookies will be enjoyed during this fun, family-friendly event! Buy your tickets today at concordiafaith.org/concerts.

Wishing Stars for Concordia Place

Once again this year, Concordia Place is hosting its Wishing Stars program to benefit families in its program. Help a child have a wonderful Christmas by purchasing a gift from the Amazon wish list. All gifts go directly to the center to be wrapped and delivered to the families. Scan the QR code below to give a gift (or two or more!) today!

December Schedule of Events

Sunday, December 10th: Second Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:00am

Greening of the church following worship

Christmas Bazaar & Children's Sale

Friday, December 15th: Christmas Spectacular Concert with Lakeshore Brass

Sunday, December 17th: Third Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, December 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship (pre-recorded; available on YouTube and concordiafaith.org/worship at 10:00am)

Christmas Eve Concert 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm

Monday, December 25th: Christmas Day Worship 10:00am

Sunday, December 31st: First Sunday of Christmas Worship (pre-recorded; available on YouTube and concordiafaith.org/worship at 10:00am)