

December 6, 2020

**St. Mark 1.1-8**

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

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the Prophets:

Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.”

<sup>3</sup> “The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the LORD;’

Make His paths straight. ”

<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. <sup>5</sup> Then all then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. <sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Psalm 85**

<sup>1</sup> LORD, you showed favor to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> **You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> **Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.**

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God will speak,  
for the Lord will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to the Lord in their  
hearts.

<sup>9</sup> **Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,  
that glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> **Righteousness will go before the Lord,  
and make God’s footsteps a way.**

## Isaiah 40.1-11

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!”

Says your God.

<sup>2</sup>“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,

That her warfare is ended,

That her iniquity is pardoned;

For she has received from the LORD’s hand

Double for all her sins.”

<sup>3</sup>The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make straight in the desert

A highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be exalted

And every mountain and hill brought low;

The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough places smooth;

<sup>5</sup>The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see *it* together;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>The voice said, “Cry out!”

And he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh *is* grass,

And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,

Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

Surely the people *are* grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.”

<sup>9</sup>O Zion,

You who bring good tidings,

Get up into the high mountain;

O Jerusalem,

You who bring good tidings,

Lift up your voice with strength,

Lift *it* up, be not afraid;

Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong *hand*,

And His arm shall rule for Him;

Behold, His reward *is* with Him,

And His work before Him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed His flock like a shepherd;

He will gather the lambs with His arm,

And carry *them* in His bosom,

*And* gently lead those who are with young.