

Comfort, Comfort O My People

*Isa. 40:1-8**Johannes Olearius, 1671
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*

1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
Bid-ding us to make re - pen-tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
Let the val-leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
(FREU DICH SEHR)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

O God, We Hear Your Word of Grace



1 O God, we hear your word of grace; The Psalm - ist tells us this:
2 The world pro-claims a diff-r-ent word: How can these things be so?
3 Lord, show us what we're called to do As we a - wait your day.



That love and faith will soon em - brace And peace and jus - tice kiss.
For all a - round this hurt - ing earth The seeds of dis - cord grow.
For wait-ing well means serv - ing, too, And walk - ing in Christ's way.



Then all will sing out, "God is good!" Then har - vests will in - crease.
When war and con - flict, greed and pride Would claim our loy - al - ty,
Now by your Spir - it, may we be The bear - ers of your grace,



And we will lis - ten, lov - ing Lord, As you pro - claim your peace.
Too of - ten we have turned a - side From what we're called to be.
Till peace and jus - tice both shall meet And love and faith em - brace.

