Advent 3 — Rooted in the Gospel, Rising in Joy

December 13 · Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 · Psalm 126 · 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 · John 1:6–8, 19–28

Theme: The gospel frees us to participate in God's renewing work.

LITANY

Leader: The prophet announces good news to the oppressed, healing for the brokenhearted, and liberty for those held captive.

All: We are rooted in the gospel of grace, and we rise in joy.

Leader: As Lutheran Christians, we trust that God's love is a gift, not something we earn. Through Christ we are forgiven, freed, and made new.

All: We are saved by grace through faith, and freed to love and serve our neighbors.

Leader: Like John the Baptist, we are called to bear witness to the light. Like the ancient ruins restored in Isaiah's vision, God is making all things new.

All: Let righteousness and praise spring up among us. Make us witnesses to your healing and renewing love. Amen.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What does it mean to you that God's love is a gift we don't have to earn?
2. Where do you see God bringing new life to something that seemed broken or worn out?