

**Sermon: Rejoicing in God's Tender Mercy.**  
**Series: Songs of Advent.**

**Scripture: Luke 1:57-80.**  
**Date: December 14, 2025**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) Our most significant need is salvation from sin that stands in opposition to our fellowship with God. In what ways do you find yourself treating sin as a "secondary issue," while giving your main attention to more urgent or visible problems?
- b) The scariest thing is not the sin out there but the sin in us. Discuss how and why we tend to focus more on the sins "out there" rather than the ones within. What happens to our hearts, our relationships, and our fellowship with God when we fixate on others' sins but avoid our own?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

- a) Read v.57-59 and 71-74. Based on your reading, what moves God to save his people?
- b) If rejoicing in God means recognizing Him as your rescuer and the only source of salvation, what are you currently tempted to "boast in" (your effort, plans, reputation, resources) as your source of ultimate salvation?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) (Read Vs 69-70,77 and Rom 1:6-11) Through Christ's death for our sins and His resurrection victory over sin, God has rescued us from sin's guilt and power and given us the forgiveness of sins. If so, how then should believers view sin?
- b) In what ways are we still trying to battle sin in our own strength, instead of living from Christ's victory over sin? In what ways do we struggle to receive Christ's forgiveness of our sins?

**APPLICATION**

- a) **Believers Worship without Dread:** Look at Vs 74 again. God's great mercy (greater than all our sins), shown to us, compels us to worship Him without fear of sin or even dread of God. In what ways do fear, guilt, or dread still shape how you approach God in worship—and what do they suggest you're believing about Him? How would your prayers, praise, and obedience look different this week if you truly came to God with confidence in Christ's forgiveness instead of dread?
- b) **Believers' Worship is Missional:** Like John's assignment in verses 76–78, believers bear witness to God's mercy in a dark world, pointing people to Christ's salvation on the cross. How is God calling you to show and speak Christ's mercy this week—through both your words and your actions—in your family, workplace/school, and friendships?
- c) **Believers Worship in Hope:** (Read verse 79) As believers, we await Christ's return and the full consummation of His saving work. How does the perfect peace we anticipate from Christ's second coming shape how you view and approach the horrors and fears of this world?

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for his great mercy shown to you.
- Confess areas where you fall to sin out of fear rather than trusting God's power to help and save.
- Thank Christ for how, through his death, you are wiped clean of all your sins and guilt and made holy and righteous before God.
- Ask God for wisdom and strength to walk in the victory over sin, live in light of your forgiveness, and shine Christ's light in darkness that surrounds you.