

Pastor's Bible Class

December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday in Advent

#359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Read Isaiah 35:1-10

1. In verse 1, we find a wonderful example of personification (giving human traits or qualities to non-living objects). Read Job 38:4-11 and Romans 8:22. What do these examples of personification tell us about God's creation?

2. The People's Bible Commentary (CPH) says, "In the previous chapter, we read about sulfur, blazing pitch, thorns, nettles, and brambles. In this chapter, we read about blossoms, splendor, bubbling water, and green grass. It is difficult to imagine a sharper contrast." What is the cause of such a dramatic contrast? See verse 4.

3. Read verses 3 and 4. Who will benefit from the coming Messiah? Compare this to Luke 5:29-32.

4. What are the implications of Law and Gospel in these verses?

5. What are the signs of the Messiah in verses 5 and 6? What does He do?

6. In verse 8, Isaiah foretells that the Messianic age will feature a “Way of Holiness.” Read John 14:1-6. What is meant by the “highway” mentioned in Isaiah 32:8?

7. Who will walk on the way and what will they experience?

Read Matthew 11:2-15

8. What did John hear about “what Christ was doing”?

9. Why does John send his disciples to Jesus?

10. How does Jesus respond to their question (and John’s doubts) in verses 4 and 5?

11. Read Deuteronomy 18:21-22. How is this Old Testament promise reflected in the actions of Jesus described in Matthew 11:5?

12. Read Isaiah 26:19; 29:18; 35:5-6; 42:18; 61:1-2. How do these verses help us to understand Jesus’ words to John’s disciples?

13. What does Jesus mean when he says, “Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me?” See also I Corinthians 1:22 and this week’s Epistle reading from James 5:7-11.

14. In verses 7-11, Jesus validates John’s role in salvation history. Yet what does he say about the one who is “least in the Kingdom of God?”

15. What does it mean to be in the “Kingdom of God?”

Devotional Thought from “The Lutheran Study Bible”

In Isaiah 35, the Lord speaks of preparing His exiled people for salvation. Today, no matter what foolishness or fear has snared you, confess your sins in the confidence that the Lord has redeemed you by grace alone and has prepared for you a new way of life (TLSB, 1145).

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, when I struggle with doubts and unfulfilled hopes, remind me of Your words and works that assure me of Your saving love. Amen.