

**IN NOMINE JESU**  
**SING OF GOD'S SALVATION**

He is Risen!

Hear again the song given by God to be used by the people He saved on this fifth Sunday in the season of the Resurrection of our Lord, *for you will say in that Day:*

*Cause to give thanks to YHWH, cry into His Name;  
cause to make known His deeds in (the) peoples;  
cause to proclaim: "His Name is exalted!"  
Sing praises to YHWH, for gloriously He has done;  
cause this to be made known in all the earth!  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion;  
for great in your midst (is) the Holy One of Israel!<sup>1</sup>*

**Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Church has come to the Sunday appointed long ago in which the New Song of God's Salvation in Christ Jesus was meant to be sung. The Day that began all this singing about God's salvation was written long ago. Its promise was so clear and concise that it was given to you today in the reading of the entire twelfth chapter of the Book of Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah prophesied by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit around the year 701 B.C. (That was the year that the Angel of God put to death 185,000 men of the Assyrian army, destroying it). Isaiah declared that the Day of the Lord's Salvation was still coming:

*And you will say in that Day: "I will cause to give thanks to You, YHWH! For You were angry with me. You repented of Your anger, and You comforted me."<sup>2</sup>*

For the faithful of that era, their days were similar to ours. Their nation's might had come under challenge. There had been wars and rumors of war. They had

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<sup>1</sup> *Isaiah 12:4-6.*

<sup>2</sup> *Isaiah 12:1.*

been terrorized by the militants from the land of Assyria. They had watched in horror, just 20 years before, as the Northern Kingdom, Israel, fell to conquering armies. And their political leaders had remained corrupt, working deals of appeasement and apology with those whose intent was to destroy them.

Even though God put down Assyria, another enemy marched out to conquer. That enemy was Babylon. And God had, through His prophets, told the people of the surviving Southern Kingdom of Judah that Babylon was going to destroy them on account of their sins. (The parallels to our day are there, for there is truly nothing new under the sun). The faithful remnant of God's people left in the Promised Land had been shaken to the core. They had suffered, and been informed, by the prophets of YHWH, that this was the Lord's doing on account of their, and especially their leaders' sins.

For them, the Lord was giving a reprieve from destruction. God would give them, though they did not know how long at the time, about 115 years for repentance and renewal. Then, He would, on account of their evil, and especially the evil of their kings, reign down destruction and captivity upon them.

(How long will our reprieve be? Every day we have is a day for the Lord to work repentance and forgiveness in the hearts of our people, and our leaders, on account of our personal, civic and national sins. Remain in prayer for all our people. Trust that the Lord will bring our time of trials and tribulations to an end. Work for justice. Begin at home, even as this secular holiday reminds you to honor your mother, and thus honor

God, *that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*<sup>3</sup> And know that, in His time, and in His ways, God will work His final Day). Isaiah speaks of the beginning of that Day when he says:

*And you will say in that Day: "I will cause to give thanks to You, YHWH! For You were angry with me. You repented of Your anger, and You comforted me."*<sup>4</sup>

Take heart! Just as the faithful 2,700 years ago were given the Promise of God's turning from His wrath, and granting His comfort, so has He done this for you. God's revealed characteristic are, among many: justice and mercy; unconditional love and self-sacrifice. He knows His people sin. He knows that His rebukes will be heeded by the faithful, those who continue to cry out to Him because they believe He will bring good to them out of the misery laid upon them.

Even when their once united nation had been torn asunder, even when their own national destruction had been foretold, the faithful were to hold onto God's promises by faith. Times of tribulation, even if they last centuries, God will bring to an end – for His faithful ones. Dear Christians, we have the witness of recorded history to know that is true. And so did the ancients to whom Isaiah spoke.

It is no mere coincidence that the song given for our ears this day reflects another scriptural song of deliverance. More than seven hundred years before Isaiah declared God's Day of turning from anger and granting comfort, another prophet sang God's song of deliverance. These words were sung, almost verbatim, when God had

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<sup>3</sup> *Exodus 20:12b.*

<sup>4</sup> *Isaiah 12:1.*

delivered the people of Israel, by the hand of Moses, from the army of Egypt at the Red Sea.

*"Behold, El my Salvation I will trust, and I will fear not. For my Strength and my Song (is) YH YHWH! He has become to me for salvation."*<sup>5</sup>

I pray that you grasp not only the parallels in scripture regarding songs of deliverance, but also the span of years between them. (It is my personal opinion based on the biblical narratives that the Exodus occurred around 1440 B.C. (I cannot bind your conscience to that: it is the more traditional dating, however)). Since that date is likely so, the following pattern of salvation song appears: 1440's BC - sung at the Sea Crossing; 700's BC, sung after the destruction of the Assyrian Army; 4-6 BC - the new salvation song is sung as the infant Jesus is cradled in the faithful old man's arms. (You will sing that today. When you do, remember the reality that will have just occurred - Jesus will have touched you, and you will have taken Salvation into your mouth)! The Song of Salvation goes on. Some other 700's come to mind - the first 700's AD, as the church rejoices in the last of the truly ecumenical councils, and sings of her unity in Christ. The 1400's AD find the Lord begin the movement that results in the Reformation and a renewal of Salvation's song in the 1500's AD. And the 2100's AD, what will God bring to renew salvation's song, as Europe where that song last burst forth has fallen into abject unbelief? Perhaps now is the time that God is using to prepare for the renewal of His people's salvation song? May it begin here, in our hearts, minds and mouths)! Centuries

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<sup>5</sup> *Isaiah 12:2.*

pass, the people sin, are rebuked, and the Lord delivers. His Word continues with the Promise that was fulfilled in time some 700 years after it was declared:

*And all of you will draw waters in joy from (the) wells of salvation.<sup>6</sup>*

For those of you who have been faithful in regularly hearing the proclaimed Word of God, biblical images leap forth from that prophecy. There are many Old Testament references to the water of life, the wells of God's salvation. And there are New Testament fulfillments also - the words of our Lord to the woman at the well (John 4); Jesus' "Bread of Life" discourse (John 6); Jesus' words at the last day of the Feast (John 7). Make no mistake - those remembrances are brought about in you by the Holy Spirit. He who was given to you by God through His means of grace, the Water and the Word does as Jesus promised:

*When that One might come, the Spirit of the Truth, He will lead all of you in all truth; for He speaks not from Himself, but whatever things He hears He will speak; and the coming things He will report to all of you. That One, Me He glorifies, because from Me He will take and report to all of you.<sup>7</sup>*

You are living in the times of the Promise. The Holy Spirit has been granted to you to lead you to Christ, who leads you to the Father. The scriptural understands that leap into your hearts, minds and lives are yours because God dwells in you. This is not some mystic union with a great unknown consciousness, a mystical subsuming of your identity into the Cosmic Oneness. I, and all faithful pastors, declare to you with the prophets of old that God's new song of salvation is for you, for God the Holy Spirit

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<sup>6</sup> *Isaiah 12:3.*

<sup>7</sup> *John 16:13-14.*

dwells in you. That gift of God, God Himself, you received with the Water and Word at the Lord's wells of salvation – wherever you were baptized. God Himself, dwelling in you as an individual, unites you to His community of the Faith. That is, in the Spirit you are led to the Head of the Congregation – Christ Jesus. He, the Spirit informs you through the means He chose – the Word of God – shows you that your salvation, and the salvation of all who are in the Church – comes from the death of Christ, our Head. And because He rose from the dead, the Spirit declares, you too have union with Him in life from the dead!

The things just declared are drawn from, not read into, the prophecy of Isaiah for this day. His book's 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, as we number it, is the Lord's gift to those who wait, in the Faith, under trials and tribulation, for the promises of El. God led Isaiah to use specific words to convey particular meanings as he composed the verses you heard today. They don't make it fully into our language – which is one reason why God never intended His Church to be without men in His preaching office. Our confessions state:

*In order that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and the sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given, and the Holy Spirit produces faith, where and when it pleases God, in those who hear the Gospel. That is to say, it is not on account of our own merits but on account of Christ that God justifies those who believe that they are received into favor for Christ's sake. Gal. 3:14, "That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."<sup>8</sup>*

With that reality in mind, hear now the once language-obscured teachings of the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah. The text begins with the Lord's address to a single male

believer. It then moves to God's address to the community of the faithful to which the single man is united. And, it concludes with God's address to a single female believer - Zion, the people of God personified as a woman. What that means is that the individual person whom God saves, male or female, is united by Him to His community of the saved. Male and female means all are allowed into this community. And, the declaration of the song for this day, recorded in that text, makes it clear that male and females from all nations are included in this joyful congregation of the saved.

The deep meaning of the song for today is that we who have been called by God through His Word, are the ones in whom His Spirit works to unite us in one family under one Head - Christ our Savior. The Word means that we who sin daily, and who were once captive to sin, are reconciled to God. This the song makes clear is God's work. That means reconciliation of the unholy to the holy is God's action, His willingness to have us for the sake of Christ Jesus.

So that you may know that you are one of this family of which the Lord promises through Isaiah, the chapter for today indicates four characteristics of the saved: trust, end of fear, strength and song. You have heard the first three declared, however weakly. Now hear the song proclaimed with the Salvation of the Lord, in the meter that fits as best to the Hebrew as one can make it in English:

*Cause to give thanks to YHWH, cry into His Name;  
cause to make known His deeds in (the) peoples;  
cause to proclaim: "His Name is exalted!"*

*Sing praises to YHWH, for gloriously He has done;  
cause this to be made known in all the earth!  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion;  
for great in your midst (is) the Holy One of Israel!<sup>9</sup>*

May that song be your song for the completion of this latest 700 years of God's grace. May it lead you, and your descendants into the next. And, may it carry you in the faith into time without end. God's Word has been proclaimed. His Spirit has been given. He who is faithful will do it!

**The peace which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus**

Resurrection V (*LSB* One-year series)

Isaiah 12:1-6; James 1:16-21; John 16:5=15

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*Pastor Michael A. Morehouse*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

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<sup>9</sup> *Isaiah* 12:4-6.