

**Advent 2025**  
**“Joy”**  
**December 7, 2025**

**Sermon Points:**

**Introduction:** The "Longing"

**1. A Transformed World (v. 1-2, 6-7)**

**2. A Transformed People (v. 3-6)**

**3. A Safe Passage Home (v.8-10)**

**Conclusion: an Invitation**

### Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. What was one moment this past week when you felt that **"ache" for a world or a peace that seemed out of reach?**
2. Which of the three promises from Isaiah 35 resonated with you most today:  
**the desert blooming with joy (v. 1-2),**  
**the weak and fearful being strengthened (v. 3-4),**  
**or the clear "Holy Road" home for the redeemed (v. 8-10)? Why?**
3. Isaiah 35:3-4 speaks to **"those with fearful hearts"** saying, **"Be strong, and do not fear."** Where do you most need to hear that **command and promise** right now? What would it look like to believe that **"your God is coming to save you"** in that specific area?
4. The "Holy Road" (v. 8) is for the "ransomed" (v. 10). How does the truth that **your status as God's ransomed child (not your performance) secures your place on this road** bring you comfort? How might it challenge a tendency toward **self-reliance or guilt?**
5. Advent joy is rooted in Christ's finished work. Where in your life are you currently being called to **hold onto this durable joy in the midst of a difficult circumstance, grief, or fear?**
6. We are called to **"encourage those with fearful hearts" and "strengthen those with weak hands"** (Isaiah 35:3-4). Who is one person in your circle who might need a word of courage this week? How could you gently point them to the promise that God sees them and is their salvation?
7. Spend time in prayer, thanking God that in Christ, our bad things will turn for good, our redemption can't be taken, and the best is yet to come. Pray for one another to experience the **"joy" of walking the road home with Jesus** this Advent season.

**Personal Notes**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---