



# Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World

13564 St. Andrews Drive  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697  
e-mail: [redeemer\\_lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net)

June 2023

## “June Gloom? June Joy!”

Though we’re experiencing an intense “June gloom” as we get socked in with the cloudy and cooling marine layer, June is traditionally celebrated as the month when the *joys of summer* get into full swing. Remember the joy of the last day of school in June when all the crazy, hazy days of summer were in front of you? From graduations to weddings to Father’s Day barbecues, there is much to be celebrated and *joy* to be found in June.

As there is much joy to be found in our church by our faith. When we add the gifts of 3 faithful men together over the centuries — King David, Ludwig Van Beethoven, and Henry Van Dyke — we have our blessed seasonal hymn for June: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”.

It is a hymn that has its roots in Psalm 71. Writing in the later twilight years of his life, David speaks of trusting God in all aspects of his life, with steadfast endurance in one's final years. In old age he sought God's help as his own strength waned:

### ***Psalm 71 (NRSV) — Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help***

<sup>1</sup>*In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.*

<sup>2</sup>*In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.*

<sup>3</sup>*Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress....*

<sup>9</sup>*Do not cast me off in the time of old age;  
do not forsake me when my strength is spent....*

<sup>12</sup>*O God, do not be far from me;  
O my God, make haste to help me!*

<sup>17</sup>*O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.*

<sup>18</sup>*So even to old age and grey hairs,  
O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might  
to all the generations to come. Your power*

<sup>19</sup>*and your righteousness, O God,  
reach the high [heavens](#). [You](#) who have done great things,  
O God, who is like you?*

<sup>20</sup>*You who have made me see many troubles and calamities*

*will revive me again;  
from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.*  
<sup>21</sup>*You will increase my honor,  
and comfort me once again.*  
<sup>22</sup>*I will also praise you with the harp  
for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.*  
<sup>23</sup>***My lips will shout for joy  
when I sing praises to you;  
my soul also, which you have rescued.***

It is Psalm 71, verse 23 that the poet Henry Van Dyke based “The Hymn of Joy” in 1907 with the intention of musically setting it to the famous “Ode to Joy” melody of the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's final symphony, Symphony No. 9. The lyrics were first published in 1911 in Van Dyke's *Book of Poems*.

Van Dyke himself described his hymn: “These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time — hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.” Another hymnologist wrote: “This hymn is generally considered by hymnologists to be one of the most joyous expressions of hymn lyrics in the English language.”

Beethoven did not write any of his compositions for congregational use, but various arrangers adapted some of his musical themes as hymn tunes — the most famous being “Ode to Joy” from the Ninth Symphony which he wrote in 1824. As one biographer wrote: “Although it would appear that the great calamity of Beethoven’s life was his loss of hearing, which turned to total deafness during the last decade of his life, he composed his greatest works during this period.”

So let us join King David, Beethoven, and Van Dyke across the centuries as they created a hymn for the ages, in their older years. Posting it on our refrigerator and our hearts, let us live into “the joy of my Lord is our strength.” May we reflect and sing of the joy of God for giving us age, faith, and trust knowing our God who is with us always (and especially in the light and joy of June :) —

*Pastor Lisa*

## **“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,  
Op'ning to the Sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in Thee.  
Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother,  
all who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy Divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus,  
which the morning stars began;  
Father-love is reigning o'er us,  
brother-love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife,  
joyful music lifts us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.