

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Luke 2.

Yesterday, I was looking out my bathroom window, and I thought it was blowing snow flurries outside. The pollen in the air was so thick that I started to feel sorry for those with allergies. For some of you, just reading these words could start a sneezing fit. I know some of our fruit trees are in full bloom, as well as other local trees and bushes.

Isaiah 61:11 "For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers, and as a garden cascades with blossoms, So the Master, God, brings righteousness into full bloom and puts praise on display before the nations." (MSG)

While those with allergies dislike this time of year, we are grateful for the beautiful flowers, the gardens that are beginning to grow, and the produce that will come from each blossom. Each bloom and blossom are a reminder of the righteousness God provides. With the lack of rain this year, I am doubtful the plains will burst forth into a beautiful superbloom, but with each flower along the roadside, each sprout beginning to pop up, each blossom on the trees, we receive a wonderful visual of God's redeeming love and kindness, and the praise that is declared before all nations.

Many have said, "This whole chapter speaks of a time of restoration and blessing for the people of God." With the coming of Jesus, truth and righteousness have sprung up just like the seeds sown in the earth. Through Christ, the abundance of God's grace has been manifested and multiplied, and this leads us to joy, praise, and thankful hearts.

Romans 5:17 "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ." (ESV)