

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

(PSALM 126:6)

STRUCTURE

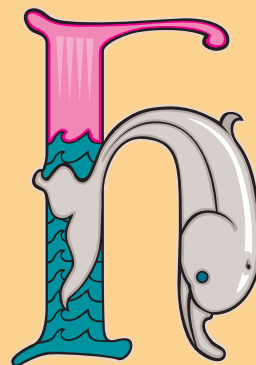
- v. 1-3** Remembrance of the Lord's restoration of His people.
- v. 4** Prayer for restoration to return.
- v. 5-6** Hope for the day of restoration.

AT A GLANCE

- PART OF A WHOLE** One of the *Psalms of Ascent* (PSALMS 120–134).
- MORE TO THE STORY** Like many of the psalms, Psalm 126 looks back to the Lord's deliverance in the past as the basis for hope in present and future distress.
- IN A WORD** Translations of verse 1 vary. It could speak broadly of Zion's "fortunes" or more specifically of her "captivity," which would likely refer to the Babylonian Exile.
- BLESSING** Israel's restoration is likened to the dry Negeb desert in southern Israel, which suddenly bursts into bloom with the spring rains.

CHRIST IS HERE

We are restored and given joy and laughter now in Christ's saving work. We still look forward to the coming final redemption, when all tears and sorrow will be past.



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We are restored and given joy and laughter now in Christ's saving work. We still look forward to the coming final redemption, when all tears and sorrow will be past.



If the first verse is translated to refer to Israel's restoration from "captivity," the psalm uses Israel's sudden deliverance from exile as the basis of hope for the restoration of God's people during a later time of sorrow and weeping. The more general "fortunes" translation serves the same function and could refer to any of the many deliverances of Israel from their enemies throughout their history. The deliverance of Israel was never complete or permanent, so there was the constant need for hope in the Lord, who had repeatedly shown Himself to be gracious and faithful to His people in the past. Even with Christ's perfect satisfaction for sins and total forgiveness of sin's guilt, God's people continue to contend with the devil, the world and our sinful natures. Now we may toil, but hope for a joyous harvest is sustained by the faithful remembrance of God's constant mercies.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1b

In the Daily Office: Tuesdays at Vespers; Vespers for Apostles and Martyrs

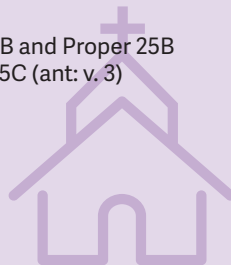
At the Divine Service: Historic Tract for Conversion of St. Paul and St. Matthias (v. 5–6)

One-Year:

Psalm for Trinity 24 (ant: v. 1)

Three-Year:

Psalm for Advent 3B and Proper 25B (ant: v. 5) and Lent 5C (ant: v. 3)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- In thanksgiving for the Gospel.
- In praise of God's forgiveness.
- When division has ended.
- For strong marriages.
- For God's salvation.
- For the preservation of the Church.



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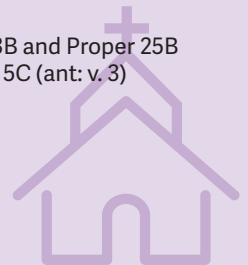
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PSALM

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PSALM PRAYER

Restore the fortunes of Your people, O Lord, and deliver us from the captivity of sin, that what we sow here in tears we may reap with shouts of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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