

EUCHALETTE



17 December 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year B

Let Us Rejoice in the Lord!

Brothers and sisters, let us rejoice in the Lord! Such is the invitation addressed to all of us by the liturgy on this Third Sunday of Advent. We should rejoice because Christmas is not just the commemoration of Christ's birth more than 2,000 years ago, but is also and especially the re-living of that saving event in our personal and community life.

We should rejoice because Jesus is already in our midst. The purpose of his presence is not to judge us but to show his solidarity with us in our effort to set ourselves free from sin and its disastrous consequences. But there is more: Jesus is also with us to make us instruments and dispensers of his joy for all!

Let us keep these consoling truths in our mind as we are about to rejoice in the Lord in this Eucharistic Sacrifice.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near.

Greeting

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of Christ's love on this Third Sunday of Advent, let us call to mind our sins.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, you came to bring glad tidings to those afflicted by suffering and fear. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you came to heal the broken-hearted. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you came to proclaim liberty to those who are slaves of sin. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All –**Amen!**

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever

and ever.

All –**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Is 61:1-2.10-11*

Today's First Reading is a poem which belongs to the closing section of Isaiah's "Book of Consolation."

The first part of the poem outlines not only the role of the prophet but also, prophetically, the saving role of the Messiah. The second part contains an explosion of joy for the blessings brought about by the Lord.

R – A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the

prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

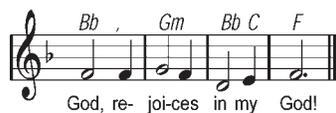
As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1

R —My soul rejoices in my God!

R. M. Velez



* My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. R.

* The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. R.

* He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy. R.

2nd Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

This Second Reading reinforces today's theme. St. Paul invites us to pure Christian rejoicing: the best disposition to

be treasured as Christmas draws near.

R —A proclamation from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 1:6-8.19-28

This Gospel passage aims to show the relationship between John and Jesus, and to emphasize the superiority of the Messiah over his Forerunner.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and

Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say about yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord," as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. * For our sake he was cru-

GLOSSARY: • **The Christ:** English transliteration of the Greek word "Christos" which means "Anointed," and which renders the Hebrew "Masiah." This title was given to kings and prophets, but was reserved in a special manner for the person chosen and sent by God to deliver mankind from all evils: Jesus of Nazareth. • **Elijah:** The greatest of the early prophets of Israel. He exercised his ministry in the 9th century B.C. Gradually the expectation developed that Elijah would "return" immediately before the coming of the Messiah. • **The Prophet:** Short for "the Prophet like Moses" who had been promised by the great leader himself. (See Dt 18:15.)

cified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –John the Baptist is our hero and our model today. Let us pray for the grace to imitate his humility and faithfulness in the fulfillment of our duties. Let us say:

All—**God of all righteousness, hear our prayer!**

C –That the Church may be ever more faithful to her mission of proclaiming the Good News to all nations in words and deeds, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the Holy Father and our Bishops may continue to guide us with wisdom and courage in this Advent and throughout our life, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the preachers, catechists, and religion teachers may direct the hearts of their audiences to Jesus, and not to themselves, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all those who do not yet believe in Jesus may soon come to acknowledge him as the light of their life, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all young people may always be joyful bearers of God's love and mercy for all, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the life of all of us may be a continuous witness to the light of Jesus and his Gospel, let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)

Let us pray! **R.**

P –God of light, grant that our behavior be always in accordance with the Gospel of life we profess, and a witness to Jesus, the light of the world who lives and shines for ever and ever.

All—**Amen!**



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

P –May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—**Amen!**

Advent Preface II

P –The Lord be with you!

All—**And with your spirit!**

P –Lift up your hearts!

All—**We lift them up to the Lord!**

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—**It is right and just!**

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and

Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—**Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**



All—**Our Father . . .**

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever!**

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—**Lamb of God . . .**

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus, the light of our life, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his Supper.

All—**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

(*To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.*)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

P –We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—**Amen!**

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All – **And with your spirit!**

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
May the Lord heal the hurts of your life and grant you the abundance of His peace.

All – **Amen!**

P –May He fill you and your families with joy at the thought of His imminent coming.

All – **Amen!**

P –May He make you heralds of good news to all those who suffer.

All – **Amen!**

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All – **Amen!**

P –Go in peace and rejoice in the presence of the Lord.

All – **Thanks be to God!**

Announcing a Year of Favor from the Lord

When the prophet **Isaiah** announced a “year of favor from the Lord” to the exiles in Babylon, it made them dream of the day they would go back to their land and rebuild their homes and their hope. His inspired words made the difference in the lives of the Israelites and in the history of the whole nation at that time.

The same message was echoed along the banks of the River Jordan by **John the Baptizer** when he started preparing the hearts of people for the real “year of favor from the Lord” which was to be ushered in by the promised Messiah. **The people had to make straight the way of the Lord**, for the promised Mes-

siah was not just coming, but was actually already living among them. And not long after, in the synagogue of his own village, **Jesus**, a young carpenter from Nazareth, announced to his audience that indeed Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled at that very moment.

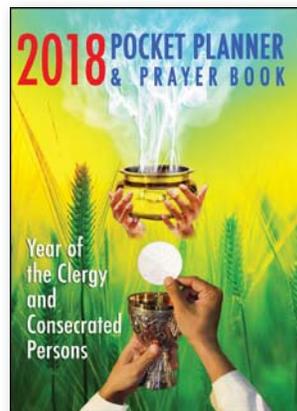
The **Lord is offering also to us his YEAR OF FAVOR which will bring “glad tidings to the lowly, healing to the broken-hearted, and liberty to captives.”** As a result, he “will make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.”

On our part, heeding the invitation of St. Paul, **we should “never cease praying and render constant thanks.”** Likewise, **we should not stifle the Spirit, while we should treasure the prophecies, retain what is good and avoid even the semblance of evil.** (See the 2nd Reading.) This is a simple recipe, which will enable us to make the most of the opportunities the Lord will offer us in this Advent. **The Lord is generous; he is at hand. Let us throw open the doors of our hearts to him in joyous welcome.**

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