

## LIVING AND CELEBRATING ADVENT – WEEK 3

Jesus is JOY



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Luke 1: 46–47

### REMEMBERING GOD’S HOLY PRESENCE

People look East, the time is near.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
lighting the fire and setting the table.  
People look East and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

### HYMN: REJOICE IN THE LORD

**REJOICE** in the Lord always.

Again, I say “**REJOICE**”!

**REJOICE** in the Lord always.

Again, I say “**REJOICE**”!

**REJOICE! REJOICE!**

Again, I say “**REJOICE**”!

**REJOICE** in the Lord always.

Again, I say “**REJOICE**”!

**REJOICE** in the Lord always.

Again, I say “**REJOICE**”!

### LITANY OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING

Response: **THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD.**

Because I love you, O My people, I was born in Bethlehem.

They called me Emmanuel, for I am God with you, for ever and ever. (RESPONSE)

I went down in to the Jordan where I was baptized in the water, as a sign of the baptism in the Spirit Who would come that all flesh might be purified and renewed. (RESPONSE)

I was led by the Spirit into the desert to confront the Tempter, to overcome him and to free you from his chains. (RESPONSE)

I proclaimed the Good News of the reign of the Father, a reign of justice and mercy, of love and truth, peace and joy. I accomplished the signs of the “new age,” My hands cured the sick, My presence brought peace. (RESPONSE)

I brought you together, little flock, as a hen gathers her chicks, as the shepherd gathers his sheep. I wanted to take you on My shoulders and lead you into heaven. (RESPONSE)

I broke bread and offered new wine to forge an alliance with you and to give you life in all its fullness. I prayed to the Father that My joy might be in you. (RESPONSE)

I died on a cross of wood, for the forgiveness of sins and to bring back the scattered children of the Father, and I opened the gates of hell. On the third day I rose from the dead. (RESPONSE)

From My place beside the Father, I pour down upon you My Holy Spirit. He will remind you of all that I have taught you, He is the Breath of Life, He is Light and Consolation, the Force of your witness and the Inspiration of your prayer. (RESPONSE)

Listen to Me O My people, for I am with you everyday until the end of time, that you may be one with Me as I am one with My Father, that the world might believe. Listen to My voice, My people and follow Me so that there is but one flock and one Shepherd. (RESPONSE)

### **PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

We wait for the Word of the Lord as we wait for the rains and our God shall come down upon us like a gentle dew. Open our hearts and minds, O Spirit of God, to receive the Word of God come to us.

### **PHILIPPIANS 4: 4-8**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

### **LUKE 3: 8-18**

Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed."

Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

## REFLECTION

Mother Macrina, a fourth century mystic was asked, "How does one acquire joy?" She answered, "You cannot acquire joy, you must find it." "And how do you find it?" She replied, "There is only one way to find it; to find joy you must lose yourself." Jesus tells us that we will be judged by the way we love our neighbor. "Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Loving service is a way of life. Only by being cheerful givers can we attain joy. Spiritual joy rises above injustice, inequality and prejudice. It can coexist with suffering because it rises from the soul. While pleasure basically comes from the gratification of the senses, joy comes from union with God.  
Lord, fill us with Your divine joy that we may be more caring.

## IMPATIENT EXPECTATION

By Father Lawrence S. Brey

Advent is a time of joy,  
A time of Holy Expectation.  
We soon expect the Tiny Boy:  
We wait and long with all Creation.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel—  
That's what Advent's all about!  
He comes to save us all from Hell:  
Of that, for sure, there is no doubt!

Veni, Veni, Christus Rex:  
We long for Thee, we sigh for Thee!  
O Come, remove the Devil's Hex:  
O Come, Lord God, and make us Free!

Advent is the "Coming " we await:  
As generations before did wait.  
With "Holy Impatience" do we wait.  
O Hurry, Lord, Don't Hesitate!

O come, please come, we long and languish!  
We sigh and groan and wait and long,  
For Thee, O Lord, to end our anguish!  
O come, this is our "Advent Song".

It's a holy Advent song we sing:  
A song of Holy Expectation!  
A song we sing for every Nation!  
A song of holy Inspiration!  
A song of great Anticipation!  
A song to bring our Transformation!  
A song of greatest Jubilation!  
A song of endless Celebration!

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And Thus Fulfill Our Expectation

## BLESSING

You believe that the Son of God once came to us;  
you look for Him to come again.  
May His coming bring you the Light of His Holiness  
and free you with His blessing.  
Amen.

May God make you steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and untiring in love  
all the days of your life.  
Amen.

You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us  
as one of us.  
When He comes again in glory,  
may He reward you with endless life.  
Amen.

In the name of the Father of all Creation,  
in the name of Jesus the Redeeming Son,  
in the name of the life-giving Spirit most Holy,  
all honor and praise be Yours.

We live always during Advent.  
We are always waiting for the Messiah to come.  
The Messiah has come but is not yet fully manifest.  
The Messiah is not fully manifest in each of our souls,  
not fully manifest in humankind as a whole;  
that is to say, that just as Christ was born according to the flesh in Bethlehem,  
so must He be born according to the Spirit in each of our souls.  
Jean Danielou



Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!