



Liturgy Cycle C

# **Third Sunday Of Advent**

## **What Must We Do?**

### **Introduction**

As we gather in the house of our heavenly Father, Christ our Saviour is in our midst as he promised. St Paul says to us in today's second reading: 'The Lord is very near. So there is no need to worry. If you need anything, pray for it.'

Let us draw near to Christ our brother. And let us with confidence confess our sins, especially those in which we offend against our brothers and sisters.

I confess to almighty God . . .

### **First Reading (Zephaniah 3:14-18)**

Jerusalem is urged to rejoice because her salvation is at hand. God himself stands in her midst, the king and the protector of his people. We too should take heart from this message of hope.

### **Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-7)**

This urges us to rejoice in the Lord, to be free of anxiety and to live in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving.

### **Gospel (Luke 3:10-18)**

John the Baptist tells various groups of people the works of justice and charity they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

The Lord, our God, is coming. Let us put aside our fears, and prepare for his coming with generosity and joy.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all Christians: that they may put the Lord at the centre of their lives and seek to imitate him in his Love for the Father and for others. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of the army and police force: that they may never abuse their power, but that they may be true keepers of the peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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**For all those who, blinded by materialism and self-sufficiency, do not experience any need of God in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That we may realise that the Lord is always passing by our window in the person of the one who needs our help, and in the person of the one we are rejecting or treating unfairly. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Let us pray:**

**Lord, with sorrow we confess our sins, unworthy servants that we are. Heal our wounds and bring us joy by the coming of your only Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**(Today being Gaudete Sunday, here is a thought on joy).**

**A lot of people confuse joy with pleasure,  
but there is a world of difference between them,  
and unless you know this difference,  
you have not yet begun to live.**

**People who have tasted real joy are suspicious of pleasure,  
because pleasure sometimes can be the death of joy.**

**Joy consists in having a love affair with life.  
It is having a heart aglow with warmth  
for all your companions on the road of life.**

**It is a blend of laughter and tears.  
It is knowing how to share with other people.  
It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages,  
knowing that big packages are few and far between.**

**It is making the most of the present,  
enjoying what is at hand right now.  
Joy is love bubbling over into life.  
And, surprisingly, it can coexist with pain.**

**Joy is the flag you fly  
when Christ, the Prince of Peace,  
is in residence within your heart.**