

Third Sunday of Advent



As I read over the Scripture for this 3rd Sunday of Advent, it seemed to me that the theme could be summarized in two words: Rejoice and Patience. At first sight they sound a bit contradictory. However, in examining the world of “real life” that we live day by day, they often do complement each other.

The first reading from Isaiah describes the abundance in nature, blooming flowers and joyful songs. Isaiah asks us to rejoice because God comes with vindication even as we are feeble. Yet, the letter from St. James, describing the farming process we are no doubt quite familiar with, says that patience is how we are to wait. Very clearly he asks us to “be patient” with ourselves and one another.

As we all move closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus we are reminded it is essential that we rejoice in the Gift of God with us. However, we are also asked to be patient as we wait day by day for God to “break-through” all that keeps us from seeing the Gift that is God’s constant Presence with us.

So, as we enter this 3rd week of Advent beginning today with Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, let us pray for patience for the journey even as we rejoice in the Promise that has come, is here, and is still to come. Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!

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