

“The hope of the upright is joy, the expectations of the wicked come to nothing.”

Proverbs 10: 28



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Zephaniah 3: 14-18
Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-6
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 10-18

We can only be joyful when our hearts are filled with gratitude. What should be our inner disposition? St Paul tells us to have no fear, and not be anxious because ‘the Lord is near.’ He will bring a peace which surpasses anything that we have known. This gives us every reason to offer supplications in thanksgiving, and to pray always with gratitude.

How can real joy come about? By emptying of one’s self, just like the Father who empties himself out of love for His Son. And for Jesus to empty himself out of love for His Father. The emptying of this resplendent love results in the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist gives us some concrete examples. Thrice, it is asked of him: ‘What are we to do?’ To each of the group, John cautions them to act justly and do what is right. If one has an extra cloak, share with the one who have not. The tax collector is not to be taxed more than what he should. And to the Roman soldiers, John advises them not to abuse their position.

The same question is asked of us, ‘What am I to do?’ How do I empty myself? Perhaps, we pray for grace so as to be able to let go and let God take control. That the Spirit of the Lord be upon us, so that by His anointing, we can continue to be channels of grace and bring glad tidings to the poor. John’s message of repentance must continue to ring in our hearts as we strive to turn away from sin and live a life of grace, praying always with gratitude to Our Lord who empties himself completely for our salvation. Toward this end, then, we await the coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Rejoice! ✦

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

newbee

15 December 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF
COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).

MONTHLY FOCUS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Praying With GRATITUDE

When we experience joy, we experience God for His every essence is joy. So, as Joy fills the air on this *Gaudete* Sunday and we do away with the sombre mood of Advent, we exhort everyone to shout for joy and to sing joyfully. This is what Zephaniah exhorts the daughter of Zion to do. *For the Lord has removed the judgement and rid the enemies of his people.* The Psalmist with joyful song sings that with God in their midst, the people cry out with joy and gladness.

