



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 17th of December 2023 - Cycle B



WHO ARE YOU



SETTING

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of joy. If we look around us, at the world, the situation is not one to be happy about. Violence, deaths, suffering, hunger, and need for a decent home...; Despite everything, for us, joy has to be our message and this is to the extent that it springs from the experience of the love of God that Jesus Christ brings us. He is the light, the word and the gesture that we all need. Let us be silent and listen to strengthen our lives so that they are expressed in the gestures and words that give life, that support, that excite, that provide meaning. May our life be meaningful, communicate and accompany. May our lives be the voice of the Word for this different world and at this moment. Rejoice, arise, and let us follow him.

SONG. A VOICE CRIES OUT: SUNDAY CHOIR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBG_uNYVzRQ

GOSPEL. John 1, 6-8. 19-28

“There was a man sent by God, whose name was John. This man came as a witness, to testify of the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but a witness of the light. This is the testimony that John the Baptist gave, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him: “Who are you?” He recognized and did not deny who he was. He stated, “I am not the Messiah.” Again they asked him: “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?” He replied, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He responded: “No.” They said to him: “Then tell us who you are, so that we can bring an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”. John answered them: “I am the voice that cries in the desert: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah announced.” The envoys, who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees, asked him: “Then why do you baptize, if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them: “I baptize with water, but among you there is one, whom you do not know, someone who is coming after me, whose sandal straps I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany, on the other bank of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.”

To go deeper into the text (*Marie-Noëlle THABUT*)

In the first reading of this Sunday, it is Isaiah in person who, as a prophet, announces good news to the Jewish people; and the Jewish people rejoice as if the promises had already been fulfilled: there we are in full anticipation; the prophet proclaims: “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me...he has sent me to announce good news”; The people respond: “I exult with joy in the Lord, my soul trembles with my God.” And today, followed by the first reading, we are not offered a Psalm, to confirm what has been proclaimed, but the Magnificat of Luke that reminds us of the circumstances in which the Virgin Mary sang this prayer. Mary did not invent the words of her prayer. To express her amazement at God's action, Mary simply takes up phrases uttered by her predecessors in faith. Let us keep at least the meaning of four of them: the joy of faith, admiration at God's fidelity to his promises and his Covenant, thanksgiving for God's work and the discovery of God's predilection. for the poor and the little ones. As far as Saint Paul's letter is concerned, is there not a bit of audacity in daring to proclaim "rejoice" when there are so many wars that kill and cover our planet in mourning, day after day, when terrorism flourishes here or there, when economic problems condemn so many of our contemporaries, in all latitudes, to a miserable life? Let us be clear, the world situation was not more glorious in Paul's time, but when Paul speaks of joy, it is not an unconscious joy, a petulant optimism, no, it is the deep

joy of the believing assembly; joy of welcoming the Good News of the Word of God; joy of reading the signs of the Spirit in our lives; joy of a fraternal life...Traditionally, this Sunday was called “Gaudete” Sunday, which in Latin means “rejoice,” and the ornaments were pink. The word “Gaudete” is the first in our second reading taken from Saint Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. Regarding the periscope of the Gospel of John on this Sunday, it presents us with the questions that were asked to John the Baptist and that well reflected the mood that reigned in Israel at the time of the coming of Christ. Visibly, the Messiah was expected quickly and, in some environments at least, this wait had become impatience, to such an extent that, in the last decades before the coming of Christ, it was believed several times to have finally recognized him; and, evidently, John the Baptist enjoyed such a reputation that they asked him clearly: “Are you the Messiah? Are you Elijah? Are you the Great Prophet? John the Baptist responds negatively: he is neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Great Prophet, he is nothing more than a simple voice. When speaking of his mission, John refers neither to Malachi nor to Deuteronomy but to Isaiah: “I am the voice that cries in the wilderness: Make straight the ways of the LORD, as the prophet Isaiah says.” Behind the denials of John the Baptist an essential affirmation emerges: “the Messiah is near, although you have not yet recognized him; “In your midst is He whom you do not know.” Juan himself doesn't seem to know him yet. “I did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize in water told me: He on whom you will see the Spirit descending and remaining on him... it is he who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.” John the Baptist leads people to Christ. He does not present himself as the possessor and bearer of the truth, but rather he turns hearts towards the truth.

Tips for prayer

- Why is your heart happy today?
- How is your Magnificat? Write it!
- What joy can the Church offer to our world today?

AMBIENTAL MUSIC.

Nabucco, coro de los esclavos - GIUSEPPE VERDI

<https://youtu.be/QCAw14sTzto?si=WGHFCE-5j7YhhqX>

QUIÉN ERES

I am the voice that cries in the desert,
calling each one to transformation.



Prepare the way, smooth away the obstacles,
Open your hearts make room for the incredible.

In our confused and directionless world,
the voice resonates, guiding with its message.
The sands of the desert cry out, arise and
In every grain of sand, blessing awaits.

Eradicate the doubts, the shadows of the past,
Erase fears, don't let them break you.
With every firm step, trace the straight path,
towards the real encounter, with the Lord of all.

Deploy hope on every horizon,
and may love illuminate so many nights.
Prepare your hearts, open them without fear,
May the Lord inhabit them, in his grace and with his gift.

Clear the paths of defects and vanities,
and welcome in yourselves the new realities.
The voice in the desert resounds and persists,
reminding you that the change to the Lord exists.

Prepare the way with gestures of kindness,
with forgiveness on your lips,
with kind looks.
The Lord waits, his patience is infinite,
to extend his hand and heal our lives.

The voice in the desert, humble and passionate,
announces the Messiah, his long-awaited arrival.
Renounce sin, fear and trepidation,
receive the Saviour in your heart.
Rejoice, arise, and follow him.

**SONG. LIKE A SEA WITHOUT A SHORE:
SUNDAY CHOIR**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOw2DJP7P68>



ÁLBUM BROTES DE ESPERANZA

<https://youtu.be/KXQ9RCkDB3o?si=-M5VVFnm5sUR6FeL>

Sisters of Charity of St. Anne.

C/ Madre Ràfols, 13 - 50.004 - ZARAGOZA (Spain) www.chcsa.org

