



# EUCHALETTE



15 December 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year C

## ADVENT: A TIME FOR JOY IN SIMPLICITY

Today the liturgy repeatedly invites us to rejoice. Although we have many reasons to be sad because of so much suffering, violence, and hatred throughout the world, both the prophet Zephaniah and the apostle Paul tell us that the reasons to rejoice are even greater. In all these trials we are not on our own: THE LORD IS NEAR! He is near as a mighty savior, as a loving brother who comes to share our burden of sorrows in order to make us share in his inheritance of eternal happiness.

In response to this heart-warming message, we are expected to do our part. Following the invitation of John the Baptist, this means we have to be generous to our needy neighbor, to be fair in our dealings with others, and to be instruments of God's loving care for all. All this is possible, not for the great and the powerful but for those, who, like John the Baptist, cultivate simple greatness. Indeed, nothing is more simple than greatness, for to be simple is to be great.



### INTRODUCTORY RITES



#### Entrance Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)*

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. (Phil 4:4-5)**

#### Greeting

**P** – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**All–Amen!**

**P** –Blessed be the Lord, the cause of our joy. May his grace and peace be with you all!

**All– And with your spirit!**

#### Penitential Act

**P** –As we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries on this third Sunday of Advent, let us call to mind our sins. *(Pause)*

**P** –Lord Jesus, you came to bring glad tidings to those afflicted by suffering and fear. Lord, have mercy!

**All– Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you came to heal the broken-hearted. Christ, have mercy!

**All– Christ, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you came to proclaim liberty to those who are slaves of sin. Lord, have mercy!

**All– Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**All–Amen!**

#### Collect (Opening Prayer)

**P** –O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All–Amen!**

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### 1st Reading *Zep 3:14-18*

*The certainty of the Lord's saving intervention was so great that the prophets often presented it using the past tense. Today's poetic passage from Zephaniah is a concrete example of this optimistic faith as he addresses his message of hope to Jerusalem and us.*

**R** –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

**Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!**

The Lord has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior. He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love. He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals."

The Word of the Lord!  
**All—Thanks be to God!**

### Responsorial Psalm *Is 12*

**R** –*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the Great and Holy One of Israel!*

*R. M. Velez*

Cry out with joy and glad-  
ness: for a---mong you is the Great  
and Ho--ly One of Is--ra--el!

**\* God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord. He has been my savior.**

With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. **R.**

**\* Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. R.**

**\* Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel! R.**

### 2nd Reading *Phil 4:4-7*

*The approaching celebration of the Christmas event should fill us with explosive and contagious joy. In today's passage, St. Paul's exhortation to the Christians of Philippi is most appropriate for us, too.*

**R** –A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

**Brothers and sisters: 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.

The Word of the Lord!  
**All—Thanks be to God!**

### Gospel Acclamation *Is 61:1*

**All—Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Gospel *Lk 3:10-18*

*In today's Gospel passage we hear for the first time John the Baptist himself. His preaching includes the concrete demands of a sincere conversion, which today are addressed to all of us.*

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All—And with your spirit!**

**P** –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All—Glory to you, O Lord!**

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What 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 Christ. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord!  
**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Homily

#### Profession of Faith

*(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)*  
**All—**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow*)\* **and by the Holy**

***Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.\****

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**P** –Guided by the preaching of John the Baptist, we realize ever more clearly the need for conversion and our weakness in bringing it about. Let us ask God’s help, praying with confidence:

**All**—**Lord, give us a new heart!**

**C** –For the Universal Church and her leaders: May they passionately pursue in our time the mission of John to call people to conversion. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those who are tempted to seek happiness away from the Lord: May they remember that only in doing God’s will is there lasting joy and freedom. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For all of us: May we have a greater appreciation of the importance of the Eucharist in our lives and in our families. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For Christians who are persecuted for their faith: May they stand firm and not lose heart, strengthened by God’s grace and the prayers and support of all nations. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For the dying: May they prepare to face the Divine Judge

with sincere sorrow for their past sins and humble trust in His mercy. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For us as we welcome the Jubilee Year: may it strengthen our faith, and help us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. Let us pray. **R.**

**P** –God of light, grant that our behavior be always in accordance with the Gospel of life we profess, and a witness to Jesus, the source of our joy, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All**—**Amen!**



**Preparation of the Gifts**

**P** –Pray, brethren . . .

**All**—**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

**P** –May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All**—**Amen!**

**Preface of Advent II**

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All**—**And with your spirit!**

**P** –Lift up your hearts!

**All**—**We lift them up to the Lord!**

**P** –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**All**—**It is right and just!**

**P** –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**All**—**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Memorial Acclamation**

**P** –The mystery of faith!

**All**—**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!**



**All**—**Our Father . . .**

**P** –Deliver us, Lord . . .

**All**—**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

**Sign of Peace**

**Breaking of the Bread**

**All**—**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

**Communion**

**P** –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

**All**—**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)*

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold,**



our God will come, and he will save us. (Is 35:4)

### Prayer after Communion

**P** –We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

**All–Amen!**



**P** –The Lord be with you!  
**All–And with your spirit!**

**P** –Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)

–You rejoice at the approaching commemoration of Christ’s birth. When he comes again in glory, may he reward you with endless life.

**All–Amen!**

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

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May the coming of God’s Son bring you the light of his holiness and the power

of his grace.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

**All–Thanks be to God!**



## SIMPLE GREATNESS

*Kalakbay at Katoto*

Last week, we alluded to what I call the “gang of seven” – powerful people all, who became even greater in contraposition to lowly John the Baptist, “the son of Zechariah in the desert.” I also spoke about the need for us to face our very own power blocks, the modern-day equivalent of the “gang of seven,” who may also stand in the way of our being totally sold out to the call of John the Baptist – to make all paths straight and level in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Today, we see the tables being turned in favor of this lowly man who dressed in “funny clothes,” (camel’s hair) and ate “funny food,” (locusts and wild honey).

Irony reigns supreme in today’s unfolding dramatic plot involving “crowds,” “tax collectors,” “soldiers,” and John the Baptist. The man who dressed funny, and who ate funny, was no buffoon after all. Three times he was approached and asked a most important question: “*What should we do?*”

The crowds were hanging on the lips of him who did not even make grandiose claims for himself, but demurely stated: “*I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.*”

Apart from the crowds, there was a second group ... that of the exclusive, “old boys’ network,” made up of the much hated “tax collectors.” They, too, approached John with what appears to have been

an honest question: “What should we do?”

The third group, no less hated and despised, was presumably the merry bunch of those who were in cahoots with the tax collectors, those who paved the way for extortion to take place, those whose swords and clubs were just as hated as the tax collectors’ money bags, those who definitely did their own extortion “on the side,” discretely or not-so-discretely. They asked John the same question: “What should we do?”

Fast forward the story to the year of our Lord, 2024. Pan the lights and allow them to focus on the bit players on the stage that is the world – and life - in general. Shakespeare was right. “All the world’s a stage,” and we are all bit players in the drama of human life. Let the klieg lights fall on our own personal countenances. And it won’t take long for us to see ourselves in the very same shoes and costumes of the “crowds,” the “soldiers,” and the “tax collectors.”

We are the thoughtless crowds, who follow the bandwagon of popular opinion and contemporary culture – that of Woke-ism and the rabidly intolerant “cancel culture.” Consumerism, materialism, unbridled individualism, and what Kavanaugh calls a “commodity culture” are what lead us, the modern-day “crowds” to be so callously indifferent to the presence and the voice of God in the world. We, too, are the modern-day tax collectors, who extort so much from the gifts of God’s creation, the Divine gift of time, of health, of talents, and of opportunities, that we mostly take advantage of. Time, the only commodity that everyone has so



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PUBLICATIONS**

**Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila**

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

**Tel. Nos.** 8894-5401; 8475-8945 • **Website:** [www.wordandlife.org](http://www.wordandlife.org)

• **E-mail:** [wordandlifepublications@gmail.com](mailto:wordandlifepublications@gmail.com) • **FB:** Word And Life Publications

• **Editorial Team:** Fr. J. Camaya, Fr. C. Dimaranan, Fr. D. Duya, V. David, R. Molomog, D. Daguio

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much, and at the same time so little of, is mostly used up for our personal concerns and priorities. We have time for work, for golf, for TikTok, for shopping, for social media and a plethora of leisurely activities, but hardly enough time left to attend to God and our own spiritual welfare.

But then, we too, are the soldiers who may tend to lord it over others in many and various ways. We can even be wolves in sheep's clothing, when we take advantage of others' ignorance, goodness, or simplicity. We act like the same soldiers when we bully our way towards our self-centered goals by hook or by crook. Military men who have lost professionalism by their pledging allegiance not to the flag but to these "powers behind the throne," are indeed not any different from the hated soldiers who approached John the Baptist. Legislators who become nothing more, nothing less than paid hacks who tailor the laws to favor that ultra-rich bully country northwest of us. And the ordinary voter, the ordinary Juan de la Cruz who sell their votes (and their souls) to manipulative and family dynastic politicians are not faring any better. Pastors of souls – ordained ministers like us – would do well to reflect on the same question, "What should we do?"

There is reason for all of us to pause today the third Sunday of Advent. And no one ought to feel exempted from the searing power of the Good News of salvation. The main theme of today's liturgy, it must be remembered, is joy... advent joy! Take note, that advent joy refers not to emotional happiness but to a religious sentiment. Emotional happiness is shallow and cheap and ultimately not

long-lasting. Emotional happiness is what people who always pull a fast one over others invariably feel every time they succeed. Emotional happiness is what earthly and material possessions and money can offer us.

This is not what Zephaniah and Isaiah the prophets speak of. "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and holy one of Israel." This is not what St. Paul refers to: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"

What ought we to do then? John the Baptist gives us a few signposts along the way that we should traverse on our own: "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none and whoever who has food should do likewise... Stop collecting more than what is prescribed... Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

There is a word to summarize all these – a word exemplified by no less than the protagonist of today's drama, John the Baptist ... **simplicity**. Simplicity is what John the Baptist stood for... John the Baptist was just what he was...no more, no less, and nothing else ... a voice crying out in the wilderness. And since "ordinariness is palpable holiness," (Wicks) sinners like crowds, tax collectors and soldiers were attracted.

St. John the Baptist, tell us what to do and show us the way as we journey down the road of life!

# 2025 Word And Life Publications Mini Desk Calendar

Our **Mini Desk Calendar 2025 Jubilee Year Edition** features a monthly liturgical Solemnity or Feast. Liturgical celebrations are reminding us to be grateful to God for always giving us hope for eternal life together with all the saints and angels. This is the Spirit of the Jubilee Year!!!



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