



**Third Sunday of Advent –  
Gaudete Sunday in the  
Jubilee of Mercy  
December 13, 2015**

## **Sunday Liturgy Guide for the Church of the Poor in the Spirit of the New Evangelization**

**The Church of the  
Poor, through the  
Basic Ecclesial  
Communities,  
rejoices in the saving  
deeds of God when  
she allows herself to  
be imprisoned for the  
cause of God's peace.**

On this Second Sunday of Advent, with the theme: “The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, rejoices in the saving deeds of God when she allows herself to be imprisoned for the cause of God’s peace”, let us reflect on “A Renewed Integral Evangelization” with PCP-II, when it says:

**“PART III. A  
RENEWED INTEGRAL  
EVANGELIZATION  
A. ANNOUNCING A MESSAGE  
OF SALVATION**

**‘5. Characteristics of the  
Renewed Evangelization**

**c) New Fervor**

(199) Such participative approach is possible only if a new fervor is infused into all the members of the Christian community. Indeed, we are called to proclaim the Good News together with the fervor of the saints, with an enthusiasm similar to that of the first disciples. This fervor is rooted in deep faith: (“We too believe and therefore speak” – 2Cor 4:13). It is the fervor of love: (“The love of Christ impels us” – 2Cor 5:14). This new fervor is a gift of the Holy Spirit, but finds support in the brethren. We need to pray for this fervor and draw it time and time again from the Lord through contact with Him in prayer and in the Eucharist. It is a fervor that translates itself in faithful, creative, persevering, and visible commitment.”

Points for Reflection: The enthusiasm and fervor of the early preachers of the Gospel made of them open signs of contradictions. Their social criticism on behalf of God’s peace angered the powers of their time. So they were imprisoned, tortured and martyred. But they were joyful in this dire human suffering because of God’s peace. Can we follow them and do the same today? ■

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

### **Introductory Rites**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*C: Amen*

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*C: And with your spirit.*

### **Introduction and Welcome**

P: Dear brothers and sisters: on this Third Sunday of Advent, let us continue to ask God's grace to be aware of our Christian and Catholic heritage as the prophetic conscience of our people. In a special way, in the beginning of this Jubilee of Mercy, let us ask for that joy of peace in Christ to overflow from our hearts even when we are persecuted, imprisoned, terrorized and threatened with death for the cause of God's justice, mercy and compassion.

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy, to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

**(Lighting of the Candle)** Lord Jesus, Light of the World, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared the people for Your coming. May we, your people, who look forward to Your birthday,

experience the joy of salvation, of Your mercy and compassion and celebrate with love and thanksgiving that feast of Your birth in Bethlehem, even in the midst of threats of imprisonment, terrorism and death in our time.

*R: Amen.*

### **Penitential Act**

P: And so, dear brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily these sacred mysteries, let us now acknowledge our sins, and ask God for pardon and strength:

P: Lord Jesus, you have called us to rejoice in your justice, mercy and compassion. Lord, have mercy.

*C: Lord, have mercy.*

P: Christ Jesus, you have called us to share this joy with everyone as community. Christ, have mercy.

*C: Christ, have mercy.*

P: Lord Jesus, you have called us to be joyful signs of contradiction for the cause of Your peace and for our conversion and transformation. Lord, have mercy.

*C: Lord, have mercy.*

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*C: Amen.*

### **Collect**

P: Let us pray: 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, one God, for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading: Zep 3:14-18a**

**L: A reading from 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Commentary on Zep 3:14-18a:**

After the judgment against Jerusalem comes now this oracle of restoration: God will reclaim his people after a period of purification. This purification – a period of punishment by destruction, colonization and exile – is needed because the leaders of the people, the state and the temple, together with the people, have sinned against the Lord. Sin here is defined (ch. 3) by a break in the personal and intimate – not legal and juridical – relationship between God and the people. But from out of this ruin comes God's initiative of forgiveness and mercy. He will scatter the enemies of the people. Jerusalem will be the glorious center of the nation once again. For truly God is the king of Israel and He lives in the heart of the people. Among the remnant poor and humble people He will proclaim His joy and raise

them up in his glorious festivals. Therefore, Israel must rejoice!

**Responsorial Psalm: Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6**

**R: *Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.***

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

**R: *Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.***

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R: *Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.***

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: *Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.***

### **Commentary on Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6:**

This is a hymn that concludes the vision of the coming of Emmanuel in the midst of the destruction of the nation as a result of ill-advised international alliances during the Syro-Ephraimite War which resulted in the fall of Samaria in 722 BCE. The reversal of fortune is proclaimed: a hope for the return from exile, the end of injustice and oppression and an experience of a new Exodus. The people must rejoice: God intervenes

in their human history and He is their liberation-salvation.

**Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7**

**L: 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Commentary on Phil 4:4-7**

Paul's invitation or exhortation to rejoice connects these verses to 3:1. Joy is the tone of the whole letter to the Philippians, a joy that arises even in Paul's imprisonment. This is not an individualistic joy. It is a joy that must be shared by everyone in the community because its reasons are not personal but communitarian and social: your kindness should be known to all; the Lord is near; the peace of God erases all anxieties and predisposes you to a confident and grateful prayer. This joy is the peace in Christ!

**Alleluia Verse: Is 61:1 cited in Lk 4:18**

**R: 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**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel

according to Luke.

C: *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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Commentary on Lk 3:10-18**

This is still in the context of Luke's highlighting contrasts and contradictions. John the Baptist, the last prophet of the old times and herald of the new, proclaims God's opportune time for conversion and reversal. In the concrete, he offers a social critique based on the word of God that must now be practiced in the human cooperation with the divine preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Everyone must share the goods of the earth for the common good; no to greed and individualism; tax

collectors must be honest in their job; no to corruption and social theft; soldiers must not use their military power to oppress people, to gain advantage over others and to enrich themselves; no to extortion, false accusations and planting of evidence to gain promotion and no to mercenary military service.

**Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, is a sign of contradiction only when she joyfully cooperates with the divine plan of instituting justice, equality, love, tenderness and peace.**

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, rejoices in the saving deeds of God when she allows herself to be imprisoned for the cause of God's peace.	Share your experiences with regard to taxation and military and police presence in your area. How many times do you pay taxes? Do you get the benefits in return? Whom do the military and police protect, the people or business?	"We are called to proclaim the Good News together with the fervor of the saints, with an enthusiasm similar to that of the first disciples." Christ is the image of the justice, mercy and compassion of the Father.

**Profession of Faith**

A: 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, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, 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.

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

P: Dear sisters and brothers, in this Year of Mercy, let us humbly and confidently raise our voices in prayer to our heavenly Father. For every prayer let our response be: Come, Lord of Joy, come.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to share the mission of Jesus by preparing for the Lord's ultimate visitation – the Parousia – by rejoicing even now in the saving deeds of God even to the extent of being imprisoned and martyred for the cause of God's peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

L: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the bishops, priests, deacons, for those in consecrated life and for all those who are entrusted with the care and administration of the church as People of God: that they may continue to promote team approach to evangelizing with a new fervor that translates itself in faithful, creative, persevering, and visible commitment. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they make laws, policies and structures that express and enhance the people's desire and capacity to build justice and peace, mercy and compassion. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may live our lives according to the values of the new life lived in common by helping one another prepare for the final coming of Jesus by being a joyful free people, happily building the justice, mercy and compassion of God, in the midst of our weakness and threats to the safety of our persons. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

L: For our beloved dead: that in the forgiveness of their sins, they may find eternal rest in the heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

L: For our special intentions, in the silence of our hearts. (*pause*)... Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Come, Lord of Joy, come.**

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. In this Advent

Season and Year of Mercy, help us to love and know you more, by encountering you alive in our lives and in creation, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Give us a heart that dares to be the sign of contradiction in the world on the side of your justice, mercy and compassion. Make our hearts your heart in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*R: Amen*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

P: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, ....

*C: Blessed be God forever.*

P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*C: 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.

*C: Amen.*

### Prayer of the Eucharist

P: The Lord be with you.

*C: And with your spirit.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

*C: We lift them up to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*C: 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:

*A: 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.*

### **Acclamation**

P: The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

*(Concluding the Eucharistic Prayer; the priest says:)*

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

### **Communion Rite**

The Lord's Prayer

### **Doxology**

*C: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.*

### **Sign of Peace**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*C: And with your spirit.*

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*A: 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.

*A: 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:** (Cf. Is 35: 4)

***Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.***

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray: 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.

*C: Amen.*

## Final Blessing

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: Bow down for the blessing: May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

C: *Amen.*

P: As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

C: *Amen.*

P: So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may the blessings of almighty God, + the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

C: *Amen.*

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

C: *Thanks be to God.* ■

Join Fr. Ben Alforque, MSC of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in **GOSPEL BREAK**, a short yet entertaining and insightful discussion of this Sunday's Gospel on YouTube.

Visit **gospelbreak.wordpress.com**. Or scan this QR code with your Smartphone or tablet.



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