

Third Sunday Of Advent

Prayers of the People

I.

Dearest Lord Jesus; we pray to you.
We approach you with hearts open,
hearts tender, hearts hurting.

Today, Lord, we thank you for the assurance,
That following an evening of weeping;
Joy comes in the morning.
Rejoicing comes in the morning.
Hope comes in the morning.

Thank you for being the God of Joy. The God who wipes every tear, not for just for a moment, but for eternity. We thank you God for the "new heaven and new earth" that the prophets foretold.

We rejoice in the God who reunites lost loves. Who bandages wounds. Who tends to broken hearts. Who makes right what was wrong and could never be fixed.

We pray with joy because our Lord has the last word. Because this earth cannot contain your heaven. We pray in hope and expectation, for the eternal joy that awaits.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

II.

We pray to you Lord.

For humility over despair and arrogance.

We thank you Lord, for the power of a quiet example.

That in your kingdom, the last will be first;

The kind and gentle ones will inherit the earth.

Thank you Lord that your way is not the world's way.

It is not the loud way, not the self serving way,

not the way that grabs everything FOR itself,

but instead gives everything OF itself.

Lord touch us this morning with renewed hope and joy;

as only you can.

Help us to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is your plan for us, and your gift to us.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

III.

We pray for those for whom Joy seems impossible.

Whose bodies ache, whose spirits fail, whose thirst is not quenched and whose bellies burn with hunger.

We pray for those born seemingly without even a chance.

Because Lord, you know different.

Come to them, Lord. Save them.

Make yourself known. Fill their needs and fill their hearts.

Lord, we pray in gratitude.

You came to rescue us, you came to set us free,
presently and eternally.

Free us from earthly pains that cripple us;
earthly chains that confine and tether us.

Let gravity's pull that binds us be broken.

We pray for lightness, for release, for freedom,
for eternal homecoming.

For your "glorious and inexpressible joy."

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

IV.

Lord, we cry out for your peace to rain down.

To nourish dry ground.

We pray for peace to quiet the turmoil in our hearts.

We pray for peace in our relationships.

That you would heal straining, and mend brokenness.

For peace in our city, and the end to sad divisions.

Restore us in loving community.

For peace in this world.

Make us instruments of your peace,

For all people, nations, tribes and tongues.

Make us one.

Lord, have mercy.

Grant us your peace.

Amen.