

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Rejoice! Rejoice!

*He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea,
and everything in them—he remains faithful
forever.*

Psalms 146:6

The church fathers who developed the church calendar recognized that joy needed to punctuate the somber period of Advent preparation. That infusion of joy was meant to strengthen worshippers in the same way a second wind helps a marathon runner push through to the finish line.

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The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete ("Rejoice" in Latin) Sunday. It is an invitation to savor the live-giving joy of wonder at God's creative, saving work in our lives.

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To be refreshed by joy, we return today to the world in which the Appalachian writer of "I Wonder as I Wander" penned this verse of the carol:

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

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The perfect Creator of the universe—of stars, birds, angels and each one of us—has rights to every single thing he made. Yet he chose through the Son to draw near to a world that wandered far from him, and has invited us through his Spirit to know and love him. Rejoice today!

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**I am full of wonder at who you are
today, O Lord. You reign, now and
forevermore!
You are worthy of all praise!
Amen**

***FOR FURTHER REFLECTION READ
PSALM 146***