



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
16 December 2018

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

### Theme sentence

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.  
—Zephaniah 3.16–17

### Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath

Heavenly Father,  
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:  
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:  
help us also to prepare your way.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you speak through the prophets:  
make us attentive to hear your word.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Celebrating the Gift of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

## Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father,  
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,  
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.

**Amen.**

May God the Son,  
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,  
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
help you bear the fruits of holiness.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



How can a family embrace joy when extreme drought has wiped out their crops and left them struggling to eat? By supporting the Christmas Bowl, we can help mothers in Zimbabwe to become conservation farmers, support their children and harvest joy during their toughest seasons.

Saliwe and her four children live in a rural part of Zimbabwe, where the worst drought in 35 years is crippling people's crops and livelihoods. After Saliwe lost her husband and his family abandoned her, surviving became even harder. With little income and no support, she struggled to feed her children and keep them in school.

Saliwe felt desperate and afraid. She prayed constantly, asking God to protect her and her children. Thankfully, through the generosity of Christmas Bowl supporters, her prayers were answered.

With the help of Christmas Bowl gifts, she was given chicks and feed and taught how to raise healthy chickens and run her own business. With this support, Saliwe very quickly turned life around for herself and her family. She built a thriving poultry business, and using her new business skills, began supplying to the school down the road.

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Finding joy amidst the drought**

By supporting the Christmas Bowl, you are helping mothers in Zimbabwe to become conservation farmers, support their children and harvest joy during their toughest seasons. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101  
VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

