

Joy to the World!

This is the Sunday of joy, *Gaudete Sunday*. In the first reading, the people are told to “Shout for joy” because “the LORD is in your midst” (Zephaniah 3:14-15). The psalm response tells us to “cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and holy one of Israel” (see Isaiah 12). The second reading directs us to “rejoice in the Lord always” because “the Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4-5). In the Gospel, we see that “the people were filled with [messianic] expectation,” even wondering “whether John might be the Messiah” (Luke 3:15). All John could say was that “one mightier than I is coming” (3:16).

So today, what are we waiting for this Sunday and how is God present? We know that God is already present with us in many ways: in the Church and sacraments; in the lives of good people we know; in

the depths of our hearts. And so, we rejoice. We also know that the story of salvation is unfinished. There are still so many evils from which we must be saved. When you think of them, what’s at the top of your list?

We are eager for God to come into our lives anew to comfort us and strengthen us. We know we cannot do it alone. Even as we wait for the day of salvation to dawn, we rejoice for we know that it came before and will come again. That’s why we sing “Joy to the World.”

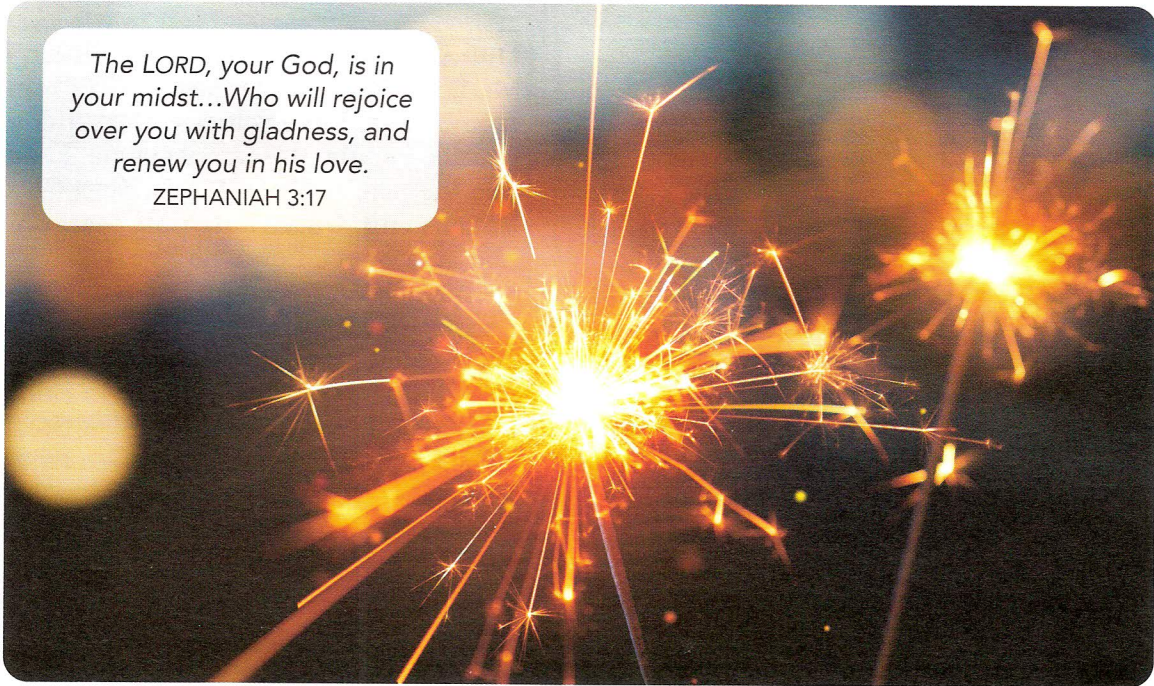
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Think of a few ways you have experienced God’s goodness in your life. Rejoice and give thanks for these blessings.*
- ★ *What are your hopes for the day of salvation?*

The LORD, your God, is in your midst...Who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17



SHUTTERSTOCK

