

SATURDAY, THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

## We Have Seen His Glory

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

*The great mystery upon which our faith rests is that the One who is in no way like us, who cannot be compared with us, nor enter into competition with us, has come among us and taken on our mortal flesh. (Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Selfless Way of Christ*, 38)*

What is glory? What is holiness? What is the essence of God's sacredness? Is it that God is *other* than us? Yes. Or is it that God is *with us, one of us*? Yes, that too! God is glorious, holy, sacred—totally other. God is worthy of worship and praise; we fall on our knees before God; angels worship continuously in the presence of the divine. And yet the Word became flesh *and dwelt among us*—pitched his tent with us, walked with us, looked like us, wept with us. The Word of God suffered with us, died among us, claimed us as his own, loved us to the end. This is also holiness.

We have seen his glory—his glory surrounds us.

Word of God, you are eternal; you are holy. Word of God, you are human; you were seen, touched and heard. Remain with us, both holy and human. Remain with us, Word of God. Amen.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Leap for Joy

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 1:44

*Jesus always promises joy. ... Joy is a free leaping toward the unexpected, a lifting up of what is new, a reaching out to heaven in hope, a touching of the Kingdom, an expectant tiptoeing. (Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Peacework*, 79-80)*

The Third Sunday of Advent is a day of joy. Today is traditionally known as Gaudete (Latin for “joy”) Sunday. We light the pink- or rose-colored candle on our Advent wreaths as a sign that we are closer to our goal: the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Jesus is our joy—not because he solves all of our problems or eradicates everything that pains our world—but because he joins us here and then promises to be with us always. With joy we reach with him toward heaven, we touch God's kingdom, we leap toward the unexpected and extraordinary.

Today is a joyful day. Jesus is coming soon!

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the source of our joy. As an infant, you reminded us that God is gentle and loves what is small. As a man on this earth, you reminded us that God is calling us to follow you, no matter what the cost. Help us to be small, help us to follow. This is our joy. Amen.