

# ADVENT, A TIME TO SAY YES

- 1st Sunday  
*Seek to understand*
- 2nd Sunday  
*Prepare the home*
- 3rd Sunday  
*Courage, do not fear!*
- 4th Sunday  
*Let yourself be de-stabilized*

## 3rd Sunday

# Courage, do not fear!

***“See how the farmer waits  
for the precious fruit of the earth”.***

From the Liturgy of the Third Sunday of Advent

**R**ejoice, be happy, strengthen the hands that are feeble! Courage, do not hesitate, do not give up, do not give in to fears and uncertainty, do not give up hoping, do not prevent the future from taking shape, do not think that happiness is impossible, do not feed sadness with discouragement, do not stoop like a reed swept by the wind.

In the darkness of this night and of this time, so full of contradictions, a path will open up, the sun will rise, a new shoot will flower, there will be renewed joy, and happiness will be possible for all and for you as well!

Do not fear, but trust and await without doubting. Your God is near, and he enters into the places of limits and suffering that mark our lives. He enters into every wound, every sorrow and disappointment and, by touching them, he heals them.

Today, our God is coming, he is near, and will not leave us waiting uselessly. The blindness of self-sufficiency will see the unstoppable strength of love, the sordidness of individualism will hear the pardon of those killed innocently, the limping of fear will discover the outstretched hands of those who trust and call out. The Lord will do this for those who await him in trust.

### ATTITUDE FOR THIS WEEK

Rejoice! Bring joy to your life; begin to rejoice over simple things, encounters, and the presence of some of the people in our lives. Rejoice even if we are missing something or if not everything is going the way we would like or if Christmas will be simpler and more moderate at table and under the tree. We need to bring back to our hearts the light of joy, a joy capable of melting the darkness of discouragement and helping us discover the beautiful and the good present in us and around us.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

***You are our most intimate and genuine joy:  
Come, Lord Jesus.***

***You are the Gospel of love that never tires of waiting:  
Come, Lord Jesus.***

***You are the announcement of joy that is possible in the midst of tears:  
Come, Lord Jesus.***

***You are the resplendent light that brightens and does not blind:  
Come, Lord Jesus.***

***You are the answer to so many questions that remained unheard:  
Come, Lord Jesus.***

***You are the way of life that opens up among the endless paths of death:  
Come, Lord Jesus.***

***Come, God of life, Lord of Joy, awaited Savior, and Son given for others:  
come and remove from our hearts the burden of sadness,  
and teach us the delicacy of happiness. Amen.***