

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 2012

Collect:

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection:

This prayer is in a fifth-sixth century collection of prayers. Thought lost, the collection was rediscovered in the nineteenth century. This prayer was restored to the missal in the work of Vatican Council II. It recalls our waiting for a birthday celebration that looks beyond to the Three Days of Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

We are still waiting on this Third Sunday. But for what? This prayer reminds us that we are not awaiting the birth of Christ. That has already happened. We are, however, awaiting the coming feast day – the annual celebration that once again recalls the impact of Jesus Christ, no longer a babe, who is our great salvation.

With every baby, we see and hope for great things to come. In waiting for the feast day of this One, who is God-with-us, we look to the salvation already won for us. This birth leads to Passion and Death. And to new life. So too for us: birth to death; then death to new life.

Prayer:

You are no longer a babe, O Lord, but our risen Savior. Help shape our lives and deaths to be like yours, that one day we may share the lasting joy of new life with you for ever.

Submitted by:
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