

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]**  
**Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal***  
Link to Mystagogy Project on FDLC home page: <http://www.fdlc.org>.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 27, 2013

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,  
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works.  
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:

The texts of the liturgies following the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord reflect our joy that Christ our Light has come into the world. Yet we progress in our Christian lives. After Christmas Time, we are reminded by the Lectionary texts that the infant Jesus grew into a child and then into a man. The adult Jesus, emboldened by the knowledge and experience of being God's "beloved Son" (as heard in this Collect) submitted to his Father's will. Our Baptism in him calls us, too, to walk in the light and to submit to God's will.

The Collect begins with God's initiative and "good pleasure" in sending us his Son. It ends at the response to which we are called: to "abound in good works." We followers of Jesus call that "discipleship."

A now-famous prayer by Bishop Ken Untener of the Diocese of Sagnaw (d. 2004) says, "We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs." We can't do everything, but we use the gifts we have to transform our world as we have first been transformed in Christ. When we walk with Christ through lives of humble service, these short days and long nights in the Northern Hemisphere shine with the Light of Christ.

Prayer:

Lord God, we seek to live as your beloved; fill our days with your radiant light.

Submitted by:

Kyle Lechtenberg  
Director, Office for Worship  
Diocese of Des Moines

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