

3rd Sunday of Advent

(Isaiah 35.1-6a,10, James 5.7-10, Matthew 11.2-11)

Theme: A Time Of Family Reconciliation And Reunion.

Beloved in Christ Jesus, as we joyfully enter the third week of Advent; we are presented today on *why Jesus is coming* into our lives and our world, or the reason why we prepare for Christmas every year and long for His coming.

Isaiah in the first reading today tells us, "Be Strong, do not fear! Here is your God... He will come and save you." The prophet goes on to say again, "Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."(Is.35:1-6,10)

This explains how we joyfully long for Christmas every year. It is a period or season that reveals to us that our God is coming to be with us, not condemn us, but to save us. It really reminds us that, with the presence of Christ Jesus in our lives and in our world, everlasting joy and peace shall be upon our heads, and pains, sorrow, sighing, depression, and sadness shall flee away.

In our second reading today, the epistle of James, encourages us to, "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and Sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged." (Jm.5:7-11)

James is telling us to put away in our lives those things that make us to grumble against one another. This is one of the reasons we need to have a *family sharing*, I mentioned this last week for all families. This period of waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus is a special time of reconciliation between brothers and sisters, and with our parents and other family members. A time to say; my brother or my sister, my family is coming over to your place for Christmas dinner or lunch. Or Dad & Mom, we want you over for Christmas dinner or lunch. This is a time to settle differences, put them behind us and plan for a happy family reunion.

In our gospel narrative today, our Lord Jesus is reminding us again that, He is coming into our lives, families, and world, to heal our wounds and sicknesses, to cleanse and forgive our sins, to lift us up again in joy and happiness, to witness the blessings and goodness of God. Jesus said, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed...the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." (Mt.11:2-11)

If we open our hearts to Christ, all these things will take place in our lives!