



SING OF GOD'S GLORY!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Responsorial Psalm

My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my fortress. O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

For you are my hope, O Lord, my trust, O God, from my youth. On you I depend from birth; from my mother's womb you are my strength.

I will treat of the mighty works of the Lord; O God, I will tell of your singular justice. O God, you have taught me from my youth, and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

PSALM 71:3-4A, 5-6AB, 16-17

Reflection

The theme for the third week of Advent continues with today's psalm -- the theme of joy as the psalmist pours out words that reflect the love and faith coming from deep within. As I prayed this psalm, there were words that jumped off the page and continued to reflect the emotions and thoughts that have been bubbling to the surface this week.

The very first stanza reflects my own sense of who God is in my life – my rock of refuge, my stronghold, and my safety. No matter what happens in my life, God is always the steady presence. We all have waves of change we must traverse and find our way through, and we are able to do this if God is the cornerstone of our lives.

The second stanza speaks directly to the themes of Advent with the words hope, trust, and strength. With the birth of Jesus just a week away, hope abounds with the anticipation of this glorious event in the life of all Christians. It is the time to unleash the trust we have in God because the prophets have proclaimed what this moment means for the salvation of the world.

Advent gives us the opportunity to assess our level of trust with how God is present and active in our lives. As we ponder the depth of our ability to allow God's in-breaking presence to influence our lives, we get a sense of how strong and consistent our trust in God is. It's easy to trust in God when life is going well; what about those times where challenges can overwhelm us? This is why our commitment and perseverance in prayer and our personal relationship with God is so vital: because this is ultimately the source of our strength and our life.

Sing of God's Glory!

As Advent continues to unfold let us lean into the crescendo that is building as the date of the birth of Jesus draws near. Let our whole being sing of the glory of God.

May the rose candle of this third week of Advent be a gentle glow that carries us through the celebration of Christmas. Let our whole being sing of the glory of God.

May our hope and trust in God provide the foundation for us to live more generously and freely in the days ahead. Let our whole being sing the crescendo of the glory of God.



For Pondering

- When you read the words, "God is my rock and my refuge," does it ring true to you? If you sense something lacking in your own experience of God being your rock and your refuge, pray for the grace you need to be confident and grow in your trust of God.
 - What does the rose candle of this third week of Advent represent for you? How might your own light within cast a soft, rose glow on the spaces you inhabit?
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For Prayer

*O God of hope and trust,
we lift our prayers to you this day.
As our Advent journey continues,
may we draw ever closer to God and all of God's creatures.
Let us sing of God's glory with the radiant joy we experience within!
Amen.*

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