

Summer Prayer Reflection



What is joy?

Joy is something which does not depend on external motivations or on passing issues. It is more profound! It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Joy needs to be searched for and shared continuously. Joy is the air we breathe. *Pope Francis 2022*

Psalm 126

To live with you is joy, to praise you and never stop

When the Living God brought us captives back to Zion,
We thought we were dreaming!
Our mouths were filled with laughter then,
Our tongues with songs of joy.
And from the nations we heard,
“Their God has done great things for them.”
Yes – the Living God has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

To live with you is joy, to praise you and never stop

Now set our captive hearts free, Living God!
Make them like streams in the driest desert!
Then those who now sow in tears
Will reap with shouts of joy;
Those who go out weeping as they
Carry their seed for sowing

Will come back with shouts of joy
As they carry their harvest home.

To live with you is joy, to praise you and never stop

Glory and praise to you, Faithful One,
Comforter, Healer and Restorer,
Liberating Presence and Source of our joy!
Glory and praise be sung to you forever!

To live with you is joy, to praise you and never stop

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Josephite Prayer Book Volume 2 Pg 145

Scripture: Luke 1:41-56

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt with joy in her womb.

**Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and crying out loudly, she said,
"You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting
sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are
you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!"**

And Mary said:

**"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit exults in God my saviour!**

**He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.**

**The Mighty One has done great things for me,
Holy is his Name!**

**From age to age his mercy extends to those who live in his presence.
He has acted with power and done wonders and scattered the proud with all
their plans.**

**He has put down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has
filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.**

**He has come to the help of Israel, his servant, for he has remembered his
mercy, even as he promised our fathers, Abraham and his descendants
forever."**

The New Community Bible

Breaking Open the Word

Luke was interested in conveying:-

A mood of intense joy, a response to the presence of God's Spirit.

John recognised and rejoiced at the presence of the Christ in the womb of Mary. Elizabeth, filled with the Spirit, spoke of the blessedness of both Mary and the child she was bearing. She connected Mary's blessedness with the readiness to believe the word of God.

Luke mentioned:

The humility of Mary.

Her attitude to God: her heart – her "aliveness" – showed forth the greatness of God.

She saw God as Saviour, the Powerful One, the Holy One.

She praised the mercy of God.

She rejoiced in God who sided definitively with the humble, the hungry, those who fear God and those who had scattered the arrogant, cast down the mighty and sent the rich away.

God alone was the source of her greatness:

God was the faithful one, faithful to an often-faithless Israel. He is the God of Mercy.

Reflection

Mary, in response to the angel's invitation, goes to share her joy with her cousin, Elizabeth. The account of the visitation brings the two mothers together, to show that God's purposes, manifested in the two annunciations, are intertwined. But also the two sons, still in their mothers' wombs, encounter one another. The child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy in recognition of his Saviour.

We are reminded that the motherhood of Mary is much more than a biological relationship. She is his mother through her faith.

Mary's Canticle (commonly called the Magnificat) is comparable to many psalms of praise. The canticle is in two parts: in the first part, God's favour to Mary is the theme of praise; in the second part, the perspective broadens to visualise God's favour and mercy being poured out. Mary proclaims a revolutionary reversal of social and political situations which takes place with the coming of God's mercy in his Son, Jesus. God remains faithful to his covenant promise made to Abraham.

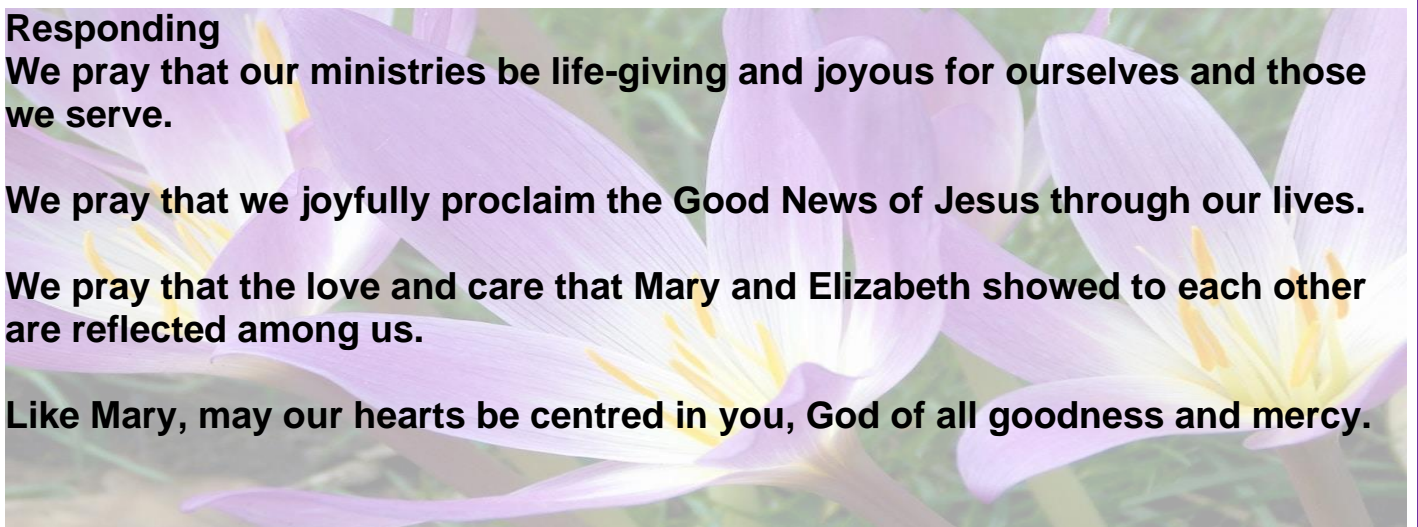
Responding

We pray that our ministries be life-giving and joyous for ourselves and those we serve.

We pray that we joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus through our lives.

We pray that the love and care that Mary and Elizabeth showed to each other are reflected among us.

Like Mary, may our hearts be centred in you, God of all goodness and mercy.



Inspiration from Pope Francis

“A Christian is one who is invited... to join in the feast, to the joy of being saved, to the joy of being redeemed, to the joy of sharing life with Christ. This is joy!”

“The one who loves Christ is full of joy and radiates joy.”

“Jesus gives us life, life in abundance. If we are close to Him we will have joy in our heart and a smile on our face.”

“Each encounter with Jesus fills us with joy, with that deep joy which only God can give.”

“The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded.”



Advent

A spirit of joyful hope fills our Advent days of faithful waiting.

Fr. Ed Hislop, Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

“Let us draw from the crib the joy and deep peace that Jesus comes to bring the world.”

