

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

("You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest.")

(Isaiah 9:1)

Take a look around you. What do you see? Is it easier to see what is not? What should not be happening? What is wrong? What is missing? What is detrimental? What is hypocritical? I believe it is much easier to see what is not than to see what good is actually taking place and transpiring also everywhere around us. Why is that, do you think?

Look at our political world. There is this great divide right now in our country and there are strong-willed people on both sides. There are also a large number who see both sides but do not want to give all credence either to those on the far right or on the far left. There is so much antagonism right now. People are even afraid for their jobs sometimes or losing out on opportunities for living and owning a home and getting married and having a family. There is so much stress on what is not happening in our country, where all the different isms are in play. Personally I find it difficult to keep track of all that is broken in our culture, all that s dysfunctional. I get weary of trying to take it all in, let alone muster the energy to do something that will remedy these situations.

And then I hear the reading today from the prophet Isaiah and the prophet speaks about how God brings us abundant joy and great rejoicing. And I think to myself: AM I feeling abundant joy and have I experienced great rejoicing? Why are these things spoken of but not found in my life? What is the value of God's Word in the Scripture then? A real question. But Our Lord knows why He has come to us. To save us. From our sins. And to restore us. To our original innocence and to restore the joy of our youth. It is underway. It is unfolding. I ask myself. Have there been moments when such joy touched me? Did I allow the moment to stay with me? Or did I rush on to whatever was next? Can you hear Our Lord say these simple words to you: "Stay with me. Pray with me. I'll keep you safe. I'll lead you home. You'll hear my voice and abide with me. Pray with me. Stay with me. Please sat with me. For you are my love." Can you imagine the Lord singing those simple words to you? Would it bring grace to your soul? And joy? That is the question of the week.