

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (*Ephesians 1:17-21*)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection ~ Christ is our Indestructible Hope

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17). God the Father created the world for Christ and through Christ, His only Begotten Son. The entire universe revolves around Christ. From all eternity Christ has absolute supremacy in all things (cf. Colossians 1:18). Nothing happens outside the Permitting Will of God. Christ is in the beginning with the Father before creation began and will have the last say at the end of time. *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13)*. Even when hanging in agony on the Cross, Jesus still holds all things in the vast universe together: the sun still rises and sets, the rains still come down and waters the earth, the planets still revolve around the sun.

In God we can find unfathomable mercy. The tribunal of mercy – the Sacrament of Reconciliation – An abyss of mercy. *One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water (John 19:34)*. The Sacrament of Confession is one of the priceless fruits of Christ's death and resurrection. The first important thing Jesus did after resurrection was to institute this powerful sacrament, an action of Christ through His priests that breaks all demonic bondages due to sin, and restore a soul, otherwise dead through sin, to its former beauty and glory, full of sanctifying grace – like a tiny piece of Jesus Himself. Through this wondrous, miraculous sacrament, the water from Christ's side washes away all our sins, and the power of His Precious Blood saves us from eternal damnation, empowers us to break away from sin and to live in His righteousness. Just as God commands us to be merciful (cf. Matthew 18:21-22), He Himself is the epitome of mercy and sets the example for us to follow. Through the unfathomable mercy of God, our hope is indestructible.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32). St Paul tells us that no eyes have seen, nor ears heard, nor can the human mind imagine what God planned for those who love Him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). He reminds us that since God did not withhold His Son but gave Him up for us, how will He not give graciously along with Jesus all other things (cf. Romans 8:32)?

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me (Revelation 3:20). Unlike us God is always open to us and welcoming us. He is always inviting us to a life of grace, peace and joy where we can be part of God's household, God's family. God excludes no one. Christ died for each and every one. He loves all equally with an all-consuming love. What He is requesting for is simply a heart that is open to His love, mercy and truth. He wishes for a return of His unconditional love that He pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. Romans 5:5). He desires that we detach ourselves from the only thing that can separate us from Him i.e. our own sins.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, I come before You as Your little child full of hope and trust in You. In You alone is my hope and security because You are my wondrous God, supreme in all things, care with an all-consuming love to the smallest detail of my life, and love me to the extent of redeeming me with Your own Precious Blood. I entrust into Your hands my poor heart, hoping that You will make it love You more and more as You deserve. With my heart in Your custody, I rest secure and ever hopeful even if a war breaks out against me (cf. Psalm 27:3). Mary, Protectress of the Faith, deepen my trust in Your Son. Grant that He will always be my indestructible hope against every discouragement. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.