

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (*Ephesians 1:18*)

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

The Exceeding Greatness of our Call and Glorious Eternal Inheritance

Called to be children of God and co-heirs with Christ. God gives us many proofs of His love. Making us His adopted children in Christ is certainly one of them. Before Jesus came in the flesh, the ancient Jews did not dare to call God “Father”. It was unheard of and considered heretical. Thus, when Jesus referred to God as His “Father” the ancient Jews tried all the more to kill Him (cf. John 5:18). *See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are (1 John 3:1).* When God made us His children, we are no longer slaves but co-heirs with Christ to inherit God’s Kingdom! Through the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to call God “our Father”. *The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him (Romans 8:16-17).*

Called to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). Jesus is the Eternal High Priest. He is also the spotless Sacrificial Lamb acceptable to God, offered once and for all on Calvary for the redemption of the human race. Christ’s divine mission is to put an end to the kingdom of darkness, to redeem all sinners and restore God’s Kingdom on earth. Through Baptism, every one of God’s children is called to a share of Christ’s divine mission. Christ accomplished His mission by submitting Himself to the Father’s will to live a life of obedience and sacrifice, and to offer His death on the Cross as an atonement to God the Father on behalf of all sinners. We are called to holiness to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to put God first priority and to carry our crosses meritoriously in submitting ourselves to God’s divine will. In doing so, we can become a “royal priesthood”, a “holy nation”. Our lives can become holy and our sufferings, sacrifices, actions, words and thoughts can be acceptable to God as precious gifts to help save lost souls. *And, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).*

Called to share God’s eternal life, joy and glory. Eternal life is God’s own life living in us even now. It is a free gift from God for those who accepted God’s call to come out of the darkness of our sins, to accept the truth of God’s love and mercy, and Christ’s promise of salvation through His death on Calvary. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).* Eternal life starts from our relationship with God the Father and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. *Now this is eternal life, that they should know You, the only true God, and the One whom You sent, Jesus Christ (John 17:3).* How is eternal life manifested in us even now? For this we look to Jesus when He was in the flesh on earth. Jesus was perfectly obedient to the Father even unto death. He was humble though He is God. His love, compassion and care for the ordinary people shone through the rejection and persecution He received. He was very prayerful and in constant communion with the Heavenly Father. Do our lives reflect any of these attributes? It should if we have eternal life within us.

Called to possess God. *Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, You have made my destiny secure (Psalm 16:5).* Scripture tells us God is our inheritance! When we possess God, we possess everything, for God possesses everything. Scripture also tells us we are made for God, and find our true joy, fulfillment and destiny in none other than God Himself. *My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord. My heart and flesh cry out for the living God (Psalm 84:3).* How do we possess God? Again, here we have Jesus for our model. By imitating Jesus’s obedience to God’s divine will, we will have a solid relationship with the Father Who will be pleased to dwell within our souls. When we let God possess us, we will possess Him as well! *No one who denies the Son has the Father, but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well (1 John 2:23).*

Conversation with Jesus. Precious Lord, thank You for the glorious eternal inheritance God has prepared for me. St Paul was caught up in spirit to the third level of heaven, he tells us it is as if no eyes have seen, no ears have heard nor the human mind ever conceived what God had planned for those who love Him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). Please reveal to us more of our most loveable Heavenly Father so that with a deeper insight into His mighty love for us, we may respond with greater joy and commitment to His call to holiness. In heaven we will become like You with our faces unveiled (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:18). In God, in our eternal beatitude, we rejoice again and again. Mary, Mother of Salvation pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.