

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 5:4)

What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – It remains the duty of each soul to come into God's will

God's creation – The culmination of God's creation is that of our first parents: Adam and Eve. The entire universe was made for our first parents and their children. God personally breathed into Adam, the first human being His breath of life which He has not done so for any other living creature in the act of creation. God made our first parents in His own image with the capacity to love, think and reason, with a beautiful soul to last forever. He gifted them with the most precious gift of free will. The traits of God can be found in His children: love, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, patience, perseverance, forgiveness, etc... *I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Psalm 139:14).*

God's redemption – When God's human children fall into the sin of disobedience and rebellion after having eaten the fruit of deception, God sent none other than His precious only divine Son, Jesus Christ to redeem the world. To redeem the world, Jesus did not come as a glorious, mighty military ruler with great power to destroy the kingdom of darkness, but instead came in the form of a little helpless innocent baby such that most in the religious establishment of that time missed the great Visitation. To redeem the disobedient, Jesus was obedient to His Father unto death. To heal the rejected, Jesus suffered the rejection and persecution of His own people. To purify the impure, Jesus endured the bloody, cruel scourging of His own sinless body. To destroy the power of sin and death in God's children and to bestow eternal life, Jesus suffered an agonizing death on the cross. Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus gains for everyone all the graces we need to live a holy life on earth and, after that, to attain eternal life in heaven, our true home. *We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us (Romans 8:37).*

God's sanctification. Straight after resurrection Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and gives divine authority to the Apostles to forgive sins. *And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20: 22-23).* What a wondrous gift of God! Christ institutes the holy Sacraments for the sanctification of the members of His Church (cf. CCC 1123). *The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us (CCC 1131).* Christ also bequeaths to His Church sacred Scripture, the written Word of God, to impart to us His eternal truths, divine teachings and precepts. Jesus prayed to God the Father: *Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth (John 17:17).*

God's eternal inheritance. God the Father loves His human children so much, He made them co-heirs with Jesus! *Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory (Romans 8:17).* Jesus said: *Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32).* Just as a loving father prepares for the future of his children, so even more so for God who is infinitely more loving than any loving parent, and infinitely more capable in providing for the future of His children. We should put all our trust in God.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, I come before You as Your little child with a heart full of love and gratitude for all You have done for me. United to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I lavish all love, adoration, praise, thanksgiving, blessings, glory and honour on our sweet Heavenly Father who made all the wondrous things possible for me. As He has given me the fullness of His love, I in response give Him through the Sacred Heart of Jesus my life, my heart, my will and everything I possess, interior and exterior. Help me to be worthy of His love so that I may merit the eternal inheritance He has prepared so lovingly for me. Help me put off my old self, and put on the new nature created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (cf. Ephesians 4:22-24). Thus, may I, like St Paul, run confidently and untiringly in this daily race to my eternal crown of glory which awaits me in my true home. Mary, Mother of Salvation bestow upon me all the graces I need in order to remain in God's will always. Thank You Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk