

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Psalms (*Psalms 100:4-5*)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection ~ My Soul, Arise and Praise the Lord

The Lord has proven we are precious to Him. *I have loved you with an everlasting love; (Jeremiah 31:3).* True love is proven by unfailing and untiring commitment to do all possible good for the loved one without counting the personal cost. Jesus is the supreme model for this. Throughout His whole life on earth from His momentous incarnation by birth of poor earthly parents, His lowly and hidden life as a carpenter, His public ministry where He patiently taught the people and testified to the truth till His agonising death on the cross, Jesus demonstrated His undying love for us. No one is excluded. While dying on the Cross, He spoke the most beautiful words that can be uttered to God, our Heavenly Father for us: *“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34).* Jesus shows us how to love and forgive others.

The Lord gives us His Father. Before Jesus came none of the Jews dared to call God “Father.” Jesus changed all that. He taught us to address God as Our Father and to address all our needs to Him and to seek forgiveness for our sins from Him (cf. Matthew 6:9-13). Jesus came to reveal the true nature of His Father. My Father and I are one, Jesus said (cf. John 10:30). God, His Father is the personification of love. Jesus tells us: *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).* Yes, our Heavenly Father did not shrink from seeing His own Son suffer so as to save each and every one of us. How great the love and sacrifice of our Heavenly Father are! How great the obedience to His Father and the love of Jesus for us are!

The Lord gives us His Mother. Before He died on the Cross Jesus bequeathed to us the wondrous gift of Mary, His sinless mother to St. John the Apostle who represented all of us (cf. John 19:26-27). As His heart had taken its flesh and blood from Mary as He was enthroned in Her womb at the Annunciation, Jesus hopes that His Mother’s Immaculate Heart will take in all God’s children and form them ready to enter the gates of the eternal home with the Heavenly Father. Thus, Jesus fulfilled His promise when He comforted His disciples before ascension: I will not leave you orphans (cf. John 14:18).

The Lord calls us His Friends. One of the wondrous gifts of Jesus is the offer of His friendship. As Son of the Heavenly Father and Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus has the right to all the worship, adoration and praise of the whole heavenly court and all His creatures on earth. Yet, He prefers to call us His friends so that it is easier for us to approach Him in love and in need, to confide our hearts to Him as one would with a best friend who would always remain steadfast and loyal in love. *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you (John 15:15).*

The Lord prepares for us a place in His home and to share in His joy and glory. *My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2).* St. Paul assures us that we cannot imagine the things our Heavenly Father planned for those who love Him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). He further says: *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18).* Christ is our indestructible hope and security because His love for us is unchanging (cf. Jeremiah 31:3) and God the Heavenly Father and Jesus are one (cf. John 10:30). Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. John 14:6).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, let my soul arise and praise You: for Your love and care throughout this year and for singling me out of myriads of people to have a personal relationship with You Lord, my Almighty God, Blessed Saviour and Best Friend. I want You to know that I treasure this very much, and I surrender to You my heart and life so that You can help me renew my union with You each day till in heaven where we will become one: one in love and joy, one in heart and mind. Till that happens help me live in Your presence each day so that my soul will always feel Your light and love. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.