

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – Our Highest Purpose

All glory belongs to God, the Most High. *For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! (Romans 11:36).* All creation gives glory to God, their maker, their source, their highest good. *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. (Psalm 19:1).* The earth is full of the glory of God. The birds in the air sing their melody in praise of their Maker. The flowers of the fields bloom forth in glory for their Creator. Do we sometimes feel our life is useless and futile? This is far from the truth as God made all things for Himself (cf. Colossians 1:16, Romans 11:36) with the highest purpose – to render Himself glory and praise. Though God is self-sufficient, He made us important to Himself. He made us for the manifestation of His glory and to share in His glory. He made us like Himself with a freewill. Though He made us a little lower than the angels, He did not die for angels but for mankind and espoused Himself to us through a love bond that is pure, divine, everlasting and self-sacrificing. Every one of us is a beloved of God, is made unique for God and is an integral part of God's grand scheme for the whole universe.

In the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when they were on the road, the crowd of His disciples began to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they witnessed. The Pharisees were annoyed and asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples. In reply Jesus said: **“If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”** (cf. Luke 19:40). *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His Name... (1 Chronicles 16:29).* God is God, and glory is due to Him. It is our duty and love to render Him the glory that belongs to Him alone.

God instructs us to do everything for His glory, and rewards us with the enjoyment of His glory. As God being the Most High does everything for His Name's sake, so, accordingly He instructs us to do likewise: *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).* It is God's ardent desire to share with us His glory. Jesus said: *“Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world” (John 17:24).* And again: *that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord... (Psalm 27:4).* Our reward in heaven is none other than God Himself! *Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You (Psalm 73:25).*

We cannot add to God's glory but we can manifest it and elevate His Name in the eyes of others. Jesus Christ came to reveal the Father and His glory. The mission of Jesus on earth was to glorify the Father through obedience to His Father's will to redeem and save mankind. Walking in the footsteps of Christ we too can glorify God through Jesus by leading lives that confirm to God's holy will which is divine love. *“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34).* This is in a nutshell the mission and life of Jesus on earth. Jesus lives to carry out the will of the Father. As disciples of Christ, Jesus exhorts us to be fruitful in our share in His mission to establish God's kingdom on earth. *This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples (John 15:8).* Like Jesus we need to work tirelessly and with great love for the salvation of souls as God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are the Lord of eternal glory. You shed Your glory to assume the humble appearance of a human being so that I may not be overwhelmed by Your majestic glory but to grow closer to You as You shared our earthly identity and our sufferings. Like an over-protective mother You had our best interests at heart from the very beginning when You created us out of love to share in Your glory. You wait and work tirelessly for the day when we with unveiled faces contemplate Your glory and are being transformed into Your image with ever-increasing glory, Your glory (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:18). On that day Your joy will be complete. So will mine be! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me that I may attain that day. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.