

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Mark (*Mark 15:33-34, 37*).

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Our Most Precious Jewel

The most perfect expression of God’s love for us – the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends (John 15:13).*

Jesus loves us so much that He Himself takes on the burden of punishment that we deserve. He loves us so much that He purchases with His own Blood the price of our redemption. He loves us so much that He empties Himself of everything that is His: His glory, His Power, His Divinity – in order that we can share His eternal life and joy. St. John Vianney, Cure d’Ars said: *Martyrdom is nothing in comparison for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man.* Through Christ’s suffering and death, may we learn to live our lives for and with Jesus so that we can be Jesus to others and bring them into His Sacred Heart, our safest refuge.

The greatest source of our healing and strength. By His wounds, we are healed (cf. Isaiah 53:5). Sin wounds us in all levels: physically, emotionally and spiritually. We are in need of healing to achieve the full potential God plans for us. Through the wounds of Christ, our healings can be complete and in all aspects. *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).* Jesus takes all our sins and puts it on His own Body so that through His own wounds caused by our sins, we may have complete healing, gain freedom from bondages due to sin, and thereby enabled to live a life of righteousness in Christ.

The greatest source of our peace and happiness. We experience inner peace when our innermost need for God is met. Sin distances our souls from God, and creates darkness and restlessness in the soul so that there is no internal harmony. Jesus reconciles us to God by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. (cf. Colossians 1:20). That is why after His resurrection Jesus was able to greet His disciples with the greeting: Peace be with you. The Lord’s peace - a peace that the world cannot give. An inner peace that external disturbances cannot shake. A peace purchased with His Blood.

The greatest source of mercy and grace. *One of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water (John 19:34).* The Blood and Water that flows from the pierced side of Christ becomes an unending font of mercy for us. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) the same Precious Blood and Water flows to cleanse our souls of all guilt and woundedness due to our sins. This font of mercy is infinite and will keep on flowing as long as sins are committed and repented of. *Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool (Isaiah 1:18).*

The greatest source of our intercession. *.. the sprinkled blood speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24).* Through His Blood Jesus paid the price for our eternal salvation. Jesus is also our Eternal High Priest who is constantly interceding for us before the throne of God in heaven.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, I treasure Your Passion and Death as my most precious jewel – the price You paid for my redemption. I treasure in my heart the precious memory of every moment of Your suffering, every wound, every tear, every drop of Precious Blood You shed for me, every pain. Let the contemplation of Jesus Crucified be my daily bread so that I may imitate Your life, be healed of all my weaknesses and wounds, learn to love through Your love given to me and that I may bring Your light and presence to others. Through Your agony in the Garden of Gethsemane may I share Your zeal to save souls. Heavenly Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in atonement for my sins and sins of the whole world and for the salvation of all souls especially unrepentant souls for which Jesus pines. Through the power of Your Passion and Death, may I live my life solely for You, through You and in You. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.