

APRIL CONTEMPLATION

*As we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation.
(Eucharistic Prayer II)*

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church. May it encourage a more lively and fervent celebration of the Eucharist, leading to a Christian life transformed by love. May all of us rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for our daily lives in the world in the exercise of our respective professions. We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silent within ourselves that our hearts and ears may be open.

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All: Jesus Christ, our Master, You are the Way and the Truth and the life. Grant that we may learn the sublime knowledge of Your charity in the Spirit of St. Paul the Apostle and of the Catholic Church. Send Your Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of what You have preached. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: (Heb. 10:32-39)

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11)

Response: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.

You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

What a wonderful inheritance! **R/.**

I will bless the Lord who guides me;
even at night my heart instructs me. **R/.**

I know the Lord is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.
No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.
My body rests in safety. **R/.**

For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.
You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever. **R/.**

Glory be to the Father...

Meditation: *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* - Chapter One, *The Mystery of Faith*, 12

“The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are *one single sacrifice*.”¹⁴ Saint John Chrysostom put it well: “We always offer the same Lamb, not one today and another tomorrow, but always the same one. For this reason the sacrifice is always only one... Even now we offer that victim who was once offered and who will never be consumed.”¹⁵

The Mass makes present the sacrifice of the Cross; it does not add to that sacrifice nor does it multiply it.¹⁶ What is repeated is its *memorial* celebration, its “commemorative representation” (*memorialis demonstratio*),¹⁷ which makes Christ's one, definitive redemptive sacrifice always present in time. The sacrificial nature of the Eucharistic mystery cannot therefore be understood as something separate, independent of the Cross or only indirectly referring to the sacrifice of Calvary.

¹⁴*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1367.

¹⁵*In Epistolam ad Hebraeos Homiliae, Hom. 17,3*: PG 63, 131.

¹⁶Cf. Ecumenical Council of Trent, Session XXII, *Doctrina de ss. Missae Sacrificio*, Chapter 2: DS 1743

¹⁷Pius XII, Encyclical Letter *Mediator Dei* (20 November 1947): AAS 39 (1947), 548.

Silent Reflection

Reflection - (*Catechism*, 1026)

By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has "opened" heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ.

Prayer for the Easter Season

Jesus, you drank deeply of the cup of human suffering and death, reconciled all creation to your Eternal Father, and brought us to new life in You. Help me to shout the Good News of Your Resurrection by how I live, what I do, and how I love.

Heavenly Father, may we who have meditated on the death and resurrection of Jesus be filled with hope and joy. Confident of His presence among us and of His power to touch us, to teach us, to heal us, and to forgive us, may we have the strength and the power to bring His love and His peace to all the people we meet. May the Risen Lord be our Peace. Amen.

Intentions

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intention of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

All:

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's **Universal Intention:** That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths, we pray. *R/.*

Our response will be: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

In thanksgiving for Christ, the Anointed One of God, through whom all those anointed with the sacramental oils of the Church are raised to new life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

As we participate in the earthly liturgy, may we echo the praises of heaven, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Let us pray:*

All: Lord Jesus, in the Eucharist You make your dwelling among us and become our traveling companion; sustain our Christian communities so that they may be ever more open to listening and accepting your Word. May they draw from the Eucharist a renewed commitment to spreading in society, by the proclamation of your Gospel, the signs and deeds of an attentive and active charity. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn