

AN ODE TO THE EUCHARIST



FOR OUR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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St Thomas Aquinas: “The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life.”

St Euphrasia: “To speak of the Blessed Sacrament is to speak of what is most sacred. How often, when we are in a state of distress, those to whom we look for help leave us; or what is worse, add to our affliction by heaping fresh troubles upon us. He is ever there, waiting to help us.”

St. John Vianney: “There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.”

Mother Mary of Jesus, foundress of the Sisters of Marie Reparatrice: It is there in His Eucharist that He says to me: "I thirst, thirst for your love, your sacrifices, your sufferings. I thirst for your happiness, for it was to save you that I came into the world, that I suffered and died on the Cross, and in order to console and strengthen you I left you the Eucharist. So you have there all My life, all My tenderness." -

St Francis de Sales: “When the bee has gathered the dew of heaven and the earth’s sweetest nectar from the flowers, it turns it into honey, then hastens to its hive. In the same way, the priest, having taken from the altar the Son of God (who is as the dew from heaven, and true son of Mary, flower of our humanity), gives him to you as delicious food.”

Saint Faustina: I adore You, Lord and Creator, hidden in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I adore You for all the works of Your hands, that reveal to me so much wisdom, goodness and mercy, O Lord. You have spread so much beauty over the earth and it tells me about Your beauty, even though these beautiful things are but a faint reflection of You, incomprehensible Beauty. And although You have hidden Yourself and concealed your beauty, my eye, enlightened by faith, reaches You and my souls recognizes its Creator, its Highest Good, and my heart is completely immersed in prayer of adoration.

Every morning during meditation, I prepare myself for the whole day's struggle. Holy Communion assures me that I will win the victory; and so it is. I fear the day when I do not receive Holy Communion. This bread of the Strong gives me all the strength I need to carry on my mission and the courage to do whatever the Lord asks of me. The courage and strength

that are in me are not of me, but of Him who lives in me - it is the Eucharist.

St Cyril of Jerusalem: “Since Christ Himself has said, ‘This is My Body,’ who shall dare to doubt that it is His Body?”

St Maximilian Kolbe: “If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.”

St. Therese of Lisieux : "Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart...don't listen to the demon, laugh at him, and go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love... "Receive Communion often, very often...there you have the sole remedy, if you want to be cured. Jesus has not put this attraction in your heart for nothing..." "

The guest of our soul knows our misery; He comes to find an empty tent within us - that is all He asks."

St Pio of Pietrelcina: “A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.”

St Angela of Foligno: “If we paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ’s love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.”

St Francis of Assisi: “O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself like this and hide under the form of a little bread, for our salvation.”

St Augustine: “What you see is the bread and the chalice; that is what your own eyes report to you. But what your faith obliges you to accept is that the bread is the body of Christ, and the chalice is the blood of Christ. This has been said very briefly, which may perhaps be sufficient for faith; yet faith does not desire instruction.”

Teresa of Calcutta: "In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life - to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how He loves us. Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the Bread of our life, our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving. In loving and serving, we prove that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is Love and when we love we are like God. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Saint Pope John Paul II: "These are words which concern the very essence of the Eucharist. Behold, Christ came into the world to bestow upon man divine life. He not only proclaimed the Good News but He also instituted the Eucharist which is to make present until the end of time His redeeming mystery. And as the means of expressing this He chose the elements of nature - the bread and wine, the food and drink that man must consume to maintain his life. The Eucharist is precisely this food and drink. This food contains in itself all the power of the Redemption wrought by Christ. In order to live man needs food and drink. In order to gain eternal life man needs the Eucharist. This is the food and drink that transforms man's life and opens before him the way to eternal life. By consuming the Body and Blood of Christ, man bears within himself, already on this earth, the seed of eternal life, for the Eucharist is the sacrament of life in God. Christ says: "As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me." (Jn 6:57).



THE DESOLATION

“Apart from Divine Life”

Blessed Necessity

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Luke 13: 6-9

Surely the LORD has done great things!

Do not be afraid, you wild animals,
for the pastures in the wilderness are
becoming green.

The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their
riches.

Joel 2:22

The next day as they were leaving Bethany he was hungry.

Seeing from a distance a fig tree in leaf, he went over to see if he could find anything on it. When he reached it he found nothing but leaves; it was not the time for figs.

And he said to it in reply, “May no one ever eat of your fruit again!” And his disciples heard it. They came to Jerusalem, and on entering the temple area he began to drive out those selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.

He did not permit anyone to carry anything through the temple area. Then he taught them saying, “Is it not written:

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples’? But you have made it a den of thieves.”

The chief priests and the scribes came to hear of it and were seeking a way to put him to death, yet they feared him because the whole crowd was astonished at his teaching.

When evening came, they went out of the city. Early in the morning, as they were walking along, they saw the fig tree withered to its roots.

Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.”

Jesus said to them in reply, “Have faith in God. Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him.

Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours.

When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions.”

Mark 11: 12-25

Spoken order is enshrined in glades of Eden

A mulberry¹ delight strikes a pose amongst an endless fernery of possibilities

While trunking legs burrow a blissful stance on oblivious earthen heaps

Branching arms di-vine impregnant space to yield

Gracious leafy fertility that combat Adam-ant shame on the Eve of prosperity

Abounding plump mission fruits ooze with milky honey goodness

Endless harvests succumb to perpetuating winter bareness

Ignored and abandoned, willful, wretched, wickedness consumes growing possessions

Happy necessity taunts Sonless years darkened by insidious shadows of purposed inheritance



¹ Fig trees belong to the mulberry family (Moraceae) comprises about 40 genera and some 1,000 species of deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs, distributed mostly in tropical and subtropical regions. Plants of the family contain a milky latex and generally feature unusual fruits formed by the fusion of the ovaries of many flowers. Source:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-plants-in-the-family-Moraceae-2075385>

Sacrifice

You shall offer the Passover sacrifice from your flock and your herd to the LORD, your God, in the place the LORD will choose as the dwelling place of his name.

Deuteronomy 16: 2

Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

1 Corinthians 5: 7

Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of them, it can never make perfect those who come to worship by the same sacrifices that they offer continually each year.

Otherwise, would not the sacrifices have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, once cleansed, would no longer have had any consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is only a yearly remembrance of sins, for it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats take away sins. For this reason, when he came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in.

Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.’”

Hebrews 10: 1-7

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

His disciples realized what was about to happen, and they asked, “Lord, shall we strike with a sword?”

And one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus said in reply, “Stop, no more of this!” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?

Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness.”

Luke 22: 48-53

Isaac's altar tempered by fastidious faith ingratiates the glinting knife's tremulous offering
Parades of idol wanderings pilfer heavenly invitations to feast at orgies of iniquity
Tradition belies the Law, and enacted freedom enslaves friendship as the Master of All

Passover moon ministerial misery gulps tempestuous anguish
as His tears of blood and sweat baptize dormant flowers
Hallowed promises dance with dreams of possibilities from ditching friends
Yes knows no limits as everything asked is given

God mounts His throne
Nails pierce wailing Truth and gloat in feigned defeat
Heaven and earth intersect to drown Jesus in a deluge of Mercy



Annihilation

They shall go out and see the corpses of the people who rebelled against me; For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh. **Isaiah 66: 24**

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.

Mark 9: 45

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him. **John 3: 36**

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. **Matthew 13: 41-42**

Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor sodomites nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6: 10

For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. **Philippians 3: 19**

For it is surely just on God's part to repay with afflictions those who are afflicting you, and to grant rest along with us to you who are undergoing afflictions, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his mighty angels, in blazing fire, inflicting punishment on those who do not acknowledge God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal ruin, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power

2 Thessalonians 1: 6-9

Then they sailed to the territory of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When he came ashore a man from the town who was possessed by demons met him. For a long time he had not worn clothes; he did not live in a house, but lived among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him; in a loud voice he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!" For he had ordered the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (It had taken hold of him many times, and he used to be bound with chains and shackles as a restraint, but he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into deserted places.)

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He replied, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they pleaded with him not to order them to depart to the abyss. A herd of many swine was feeding there on the hillside, and they pleaded with him to allow them to enter those swine; and he let them. The demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran away and reported the incident in the town and throughout the countryside. People came out to see what had happened and, when they approached Jesus, they discovered the man from whom the demons had come out sitting at his feet. He was clothed and in his right mind, and they were seized with fear. Those who witnessed it told them how the possessed man had been saved.

The entire population of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them because they were seized with great fear. So he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the

He has condemned the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her harlotry. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” They said a second time:

“Alleluia! Smoke will rise from her forever and ever.” **Revelation 19: 2-3**

The Devil who had led them astray was thrown into the pool of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **Revelation 20: 10**

demons had come out begged to remain with him, but he sent him away, saying, “Return home and recount what God has done for you.” The man went off and proclaimed throughout the whole town what Jesus had done for him.

Luke 8: 26-39

Refused deadening wine placates parched lips while taunting insatiable suffering
Convulsions seize His brutalized body appeasing burning lungs robbed of breath and life
Guilt repented pleas court innocence and elicit a promise of heavenly remembrance

Temple and altar are conjoined, our hemorrhaging High Priest soaks the earth
with gorging streams of Mercy

Lurid lusting demons bludgeon innocent Mystical Flesh with infinite wounds of sin
Our Lamb of God cries His final bleat, dead to all, His scarlet filthy woolen coat discarded

His pierced heart drips and forms tidepools of Mercy swelling with tidal waves of Righteousness

Putrid jaws of death grind their blackholed unrelenting fangs
on smorgasbords of total sin

The story ends in its beginnings: severed Agape rejoins its Source
and explodes with Perfect endless Light



THE CONSOLATION

“Participation in Divine Life”

Mercy

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

1 Peter 1: 3-5

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

Hebrews 4: 16

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 5: 7

Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

Luke 6: 36

For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2: 13

Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.

Psalms 23: 6

After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep [Gate] a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled.

One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be well?”

The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me.”

Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your mat, and walk.”

Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, “It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.”

He answered them, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’”

They asked him, “Who is the man who told you, ‘Take it up and walk’?”

The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there. After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, “Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you.”

The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.”

John 5: 1-17

Incredulous testy grumblings demand water – a rock is struck and assured Blessings
flow at Massah² and Meribah³

Fatigued hearkening, disempowers dissident Moses – his staff opposes the command to testify before
the people to liberate rejuvenating waters⁴

The cleansing laws of Mivkah⁵ reckon misappropriated thirst and herald anointing moments
of healing and wholeness

The time arrives: Jordan waters overflowing with repentance immerse the King of Glory's body in
broken human affairs imploring communion

Jacob's well invites the Samaritan woman to imbibe Living Waters and taste the Good Life
Dusty sin wearied feet are caressed by the gravity of Love and washed in the ministry of selfless service

Mercy eviscerates the bowels of sin tossing them into rivers and springs of Blood⁶

“For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”⁷

Death no more: crystal clear waters of Life run forever from the throne of God and the Lamb⁸

² Exodus 17: 5-6

³ Massah and Meribah: “These names occur together as applied to one place only in Ex 17:7; they stand, however, in parallelism in Dt 33:8; Ps 95:8. In all other cases they are kept distinct, as belonging to two separate narratives. The conjunction here may be due to conflation of the sources.” Source:

<https://classic.net.bible.org/dictionary.php?word=Massah%20And%20Meribah>

⁴ Numbers 20: 7-8 There are two separate accounts of God providing water to Israelites wandering in the desert. In this account Moses does not follow the instructions of God to speak to the rock. He strikes the rock with his staff as he did the first time (Exodus 17). His disobedience is punished by God. Moses dies at the age of 120 at Mount Nebo and is not permitted to enter the promised land.

⁵ A ritual bath used for cleansing and codified in Jewish Law. First instance, Leviticus 11: 36

⁶ Revelation 16: 4

⁷ 1 John 5: 8

⁸ Revelation 22: 1

Healing

Those who conceal their sins do not prosper, but those who confess and forsake them obtain mercy.

Proverbs 28: 13

If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.

1 John 1: 9

Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance?

Romans 2: 4

But if the wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed, if he keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live. He shall not die!

Ezekiel 18: 21

For godly sorrow produces a salutary repentance without regret, but worldly sorrow produces death.

2 Corinthians 7: 10

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Now those who belong to Christ [Jesus] have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatian 5: 19-21, 24

The wicked scorn a guilt offering, but the upright find acceptance. The heart knows its own bitterness, and its joy no stranger shares. The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.

Proverbs 14: 9-11

One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set [him] in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven."

Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were at table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus said to them in reply, "Those who are healthy do not need a

The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ [Jesus] will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little.

1 Peter 5: 10

If I close heaven so that there is no rain, if I command the locust to devour the land, if I send pestilence among my people, if then my people, upon whom my name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7: 14

Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted.

Galatians 6: 1

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.

James 5: 16

Come, let us return to the LORD, For it is he who has torn, but he will heal us; he has struck down, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence.

Hosea 6: 1-2

He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak. Though young men faint and grow weary, and youths stagger and fall, They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

Isaiah 40: 29-31

physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners.”

Luke 5: 17-32

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.”

And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.

Luke 19: 1-8

Breath of God descends and souls take root in maimed bodies of earthen doves
seeking nests of eternal peace

Crashing storms of lightening attack forest canopies with labyrinthing fiery snares...
pure white wings melt in thrashing black fits
Perjurious assertions must not concede defeat or flirt with death

Whimpering coos confess to banishing flights of torrid fancy
So grounded doves submit to bouts of mass silence
In mournful reverence and with abject honesty they sip from sweet cups of surrender

Mighty winds pick up, carrying prayerful tassels⁹ of healing
The doves' faith filled beaks reach for ingratiating threads of hanging hope
Reconciled – renewed – restored: the doves soar to new heights on Eagle Wings¹⁰ to their ultimate destiny



⁹ Reference to healing of hemorrhaging women: Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, and Luke 8:43-48

¹⁰ Reference to Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint".

Communion

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1 Corinthians 10: 16-17

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

John 6: 53-58

A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by [the] Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

1 Corinthians 11: 28-32

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6: 35

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life—a for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?”

And he replied to them, “What sort of things?” They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see.”

And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while

with the Father and was made visible to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1: 1-3

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”

John 14: 23

he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24: 13-35



A soulful string is plucked, and a note takes vibrating shape in a gapping void of sense and sound
Its fragile echo stretches to find its corresponding pitch below and above
A solitary note bellows with skipping ponderings as it gravitates to clustering accords

Notes in resounding affinities chortle discovered melodies
Words, memories, emotions, imaginings, meanings, and tempos converge into songs
Yet more is needed, and more is required, so mellifluous harmonies intone scrumptious ornamentations

Choruses of heavenly proportions enjoin the song lifting the music into a crescendo offering
New voices and instruments combine, capitulating layers of acclaiming richness
And a note becomes gloried music embodied in an ecstatic dance of communion



THE JUBILATION

“Unity in the Divine Life”

Joy

So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2: 19-22

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

John 15: 11

So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

John 16: 22

When I found your words, I devoured them; your words were my joy, the happiness of my heart because I bear your name Lord, God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15: 16

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.”

He said to him, “I will come and cure him.”

The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel* have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”

And Jesus said to the centurion, “You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.” And at that very hour [his] servant was healed.

Matthew 8: 5-13

Our Blessed Mother readies a bedazzling bride burnished with the Blood of the Lamb
 Her true beauty restored, the unveiled face of her soul radiates from the beaming
 penetrating gaze of her Beloved

Light begets light in transfiguring Glory and Love interlocutes a momentous never-ending embrace

Hand in hand bride and Bridegroom enter the feast

Their infectious union intercedes a welcoming procession of happy guests

The bride takes a seat of precious prominence among tables lavished with “rich food and choice wines”¹¹

Courses of satiating elation edify the bride and her King of Joy feeds her with His Goodness

Gifts galore present themselves unwrapping untold treasures that

“eyes have not seen and ears have not heard”¹²

An entangling honeymoon initiates delicious consummating creations from the fruitions
 of His heart’s desires



¹¹ Isaiah 25: 6

¹² 1 Corinthians 2: 9

Peace

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13: 11

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14: 27

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5: 1

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8: 6

Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12: 14

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

James 3: 18

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 7

Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.

Proverbs 12: 20

When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and said, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?”

“Yes,” he said. When he came into the house, before he had time to speak, Jesus asked him, “What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?”

When he said, “From foreigners,” Jesus said to him, “Then the subjects are exempt. But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you.”

Matthew 17: 24-27

They watched him closely and sent agents pretending to be righteous who were to trap him in speech, in order to hand him over to the authority and power of the governor. They posed this question to him, “Teacher, we know that what you say and teach is correct, and you show no partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.

Is it lawful for us to pay tribute to Caesar or not?”

Recognizing their craftiness he said to them, “Show me a denarius; whose image and name does it bear?”

They replied, “Caesar’s.”

So he said to them, “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. -

Ephesians 4:2-3

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5: 9

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox.

The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

Isaiah 11: 6-9

They were unable to trap him by something he might say before the people, and so amazed were they at his reply that they fell silent.

Luke 20: 20-26



Prince of Peace enrobe thy subjects in tabernacled tunics whitened from crimsoned supplications
Hold each humble agency as a selfless beat of your Sacred Heart bequeathed to the Father
Gather all the nations and insight gratuitous invocations reverberating with indefatigable
faith, hope and trust

Let the outcry of hosannas burst open the heavens and send celestial reigns of Angels and Witnesses to
soak altars with Unapproachable Light
Bread embodied
Wine transfused

Forgiveness: the new lingua franca obliterates fortified fury fracasing fantasmic fear
It bleeds in gushing bursts unfurling its red carpeted mercy to
the four corners of the earth
Oh Prince of Peace crown thy sheep as heavenly citizens commissioned as thy
kiss of peace, now and forever



Love

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

1 John 4: 8-12

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.

1 John 4: 16-18

Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

John 15: 12-13

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone

After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We also will come with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.”

So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish.

When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you just caught.”

So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord.

who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

John 15:9-10

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **John 15:12-13**

Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4: 15

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

Romans 12: 9-10

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Your every act should be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16: 14

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

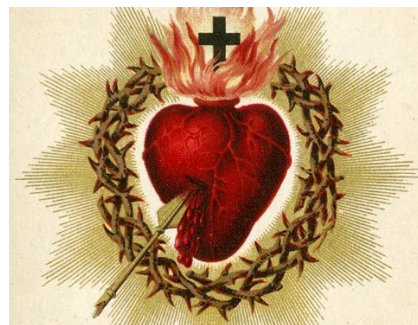
He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

He said to him, "Tend my sheep. He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

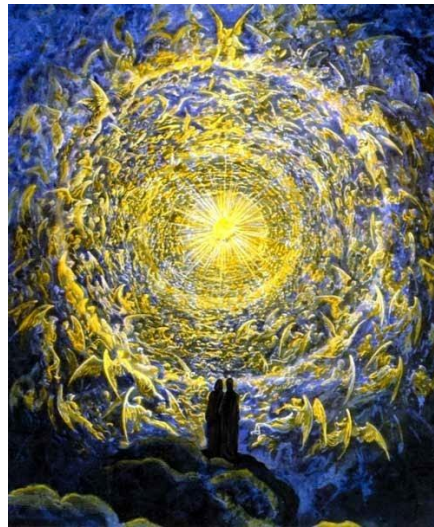
John 21: 1-19



Holy, Holy, Holy, our King of Love is enthroned - the Greatest living in the least
Pearls of Great Price unearthed as priceless treasures
Giver and gifts “packed together, shaken down, and overflowing”¹³

The Sower’s impassioned seeds are sown with compassion
Glory births forests of mustard trees bowing in adoration
The Word made Bread of Life multiples in spirited flesh and does not return void

Myriads and myriads of graced blessings commune with Purpose
Serve and served know no boundaries, persisting in unbreakable chains of charity
Love, loves love and draws everything into selfless journeys creating unending Otherness



¹³ Luke 6: 38

THE DESOLATION

“Apart from Divine Life”

Blessed Necessity

Spoken order is enshrined in glades of Eden

A mulberry¹⁴ delight strikes a pose amongst an endless fernery of possibilities

While trunking legs burrow a blissful stance on oblivious earthen heaps

Branching arms di-vine impregnant space to yield

Gracious leafy fertility that combat Adam-ant shame on the Eve of prosperity

Abounding plump mission fruits ooze with milky honey goodness

Endless harvests succumb to perpetuating winter bareness

Ignored and abandoned, willful, wretched, wickedness consumes growing possessions

Happy necessity taunts Sonless years darkened by insidious shadows of purposed inheritance

¹⁴ Fig trees belong to the mulberry family (Moraceae) comprises about 40 genera and some 1,000 species of deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs, distributed mostly in tropical and subtropical regions. Plants of the family contain a milky latex and generally feature unusual fruits formed by the fusion of the ovaries of many flowers. Source:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-plants-in-the-family-Moraceae-2075385>

Sacrifice

Isaac's altar tempered by fastidious faith ingratiates the glinting knife's tremulous offering
 Parades of idol wanderings pilfer heavenly invitations to feast at orgies of iniquity
 Tradition belies the Law, and enacted freedom enslaves friendship as the Master of All

Passover moon ministerial misery gulps tempestuous anguish
 as His tears of blood and sweat baptize dormant flowers
 Hallowed promises dance with dreams of possibilities from ditching friends
 Yes knows no limits as everything asked is given

God mounts His throne
 Nails pierce wailing Truth and gloat in feigned defeat
 Heaven and earth intersect to drown Jesus in a deluge of Mercy

Annihilation

Refused deadening wine placates parched lips while taunting insatiable suffering
 Convulsions seize His brutalized body appeasing burning lungs robbed of breath and life
 Guilt repented pleas court innocence and elicit a promise of heavenly remembrance

Temple and altar are conjoined, our hemorrhaging High Priest soaks the earth
 with gorging streams of Mercy

Lurid lusting demons bludgeon innocent Mystical Flesh with infinite wounds of sin
 Our Lamb of God cries His final bleat, dead to all, His scarlet filthy woolen coat discarded

His pierced heart drips and forms tidepools of Mercy swelling with tidal waves of Righteousness
 Putrid jaws of death grind their blackholed unrelenting fangs
 on smorgasbords of total sin
 The story ends in its beginnings: severed Agape rejoins its Source
 and explodes with Perfect endless Light

THE CONSOLATION

“Participation in Divine Life”

Mercy

Incredulous testy grumblings demand water – a rock is struck and assured Blessings
 flow at Massah¹⁵ and Meribah¹⁶

Fatigued hearkening, disempowers dissident Moses – his staff opposes the command to testify before
 the people to liberate rejuvenating waters¹⁷

¹⁵ Exodus 17: 5-6

¹⁶ Massah and Meribah: “These names occur together as applied to one place only in Ex 17:7; they stand, however, in parallelism in Dt 33:8; Ps 95:8. In all other cases they are kept distinct, as belonging to two separate narratives. The conjunction here may be due to conflation of the sources.” Source: <https://classic.net.bible.org/dictionary.php?word=Massah%20And%20Meribah>

¹⁷ Numbers 20: 7-8 There are two separate accounts of God providing water to Israelites wandering in the desert. In this account Moses does not follow the instructions of God to speak to the rock. He strikes the rock with his staff as he did the first time (Exodus 17). His disobedience is punished by God. Moses dies at the age of 120 at Mount Nebo and is not permitted to enter the promised land.

The cleansing laws of Mivkah¹⁸ reckon misappropriated thirst and herald anointing moments
of healing and wholeness

The time arrives: Jordan waters overflowing with repentance immerse the King of Glory's body in
broken human affairs imploring communion

Jacob's well invites the Samaritan woman to imbibe Living Waters and taste the Good Life
Dusty sin wearied feet are caressed by the gravity of Love and washed in the ministry of selfless service

Mercy eviscerates the bowels of sin tossing them into rivers and springs of Blood¹⁹
"For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."²⁰
Death no more: crystal clear waters of Life run forever from the throne of God and the Lamb²¹

Healing

Breath of God descends and souls take root in maimed bodies of earthen doves
seeking nests of eternal peace
Crashing storms of lightening attack forest canopies with labyrinthing fiery snares...
pure white wings melt in thrashing black fits

¹⁸ A ritual bath used for cleansing and codified in Jewish Law. First instance, Leviticus 11: 36

¹⁹ Revelation 16: 4

²⁰ 1 John 5: 8

²¹ Revelation 22: 1

Perjurious assertions must not concede defeat or flirt with death

Whimpering coos confess to banishing flights of torrid fancy

So grounded doves submit to bouts of mass silence

In mournful reverence and with abject honesty they sip from sweet cups of surrender

Mighty winds pick up, carrying prayerful tassels²² of healing

The doves' faith filled beaks reach for ingratiating threads of hanging hope

Reconciled – renewed – restored: the doves soar to new heights on Eagle Wings²³ to their ultimate destiny

Communion

A soulful string is plucked, and a note takes vibrating shape in a gapping void of sense and sound

Its fragile echo stretches to find its corresponding pitch below and above

A solitary note bellows with skipping ponderings as it gravitates to clustering accords

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Yet more is needed, and more is required, so mellifluous harmonies intone scrumptious ornamentations

²² Reference to healing of hemorrhaging women: Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, and Luke 8:43-48

²³ Reference to Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint".

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