

A PASSION PRAYER VIGIL

for the Third Centenary of the Founding of the Passionists

Exposition Hymn (Incensation)

You are mine

Adoration Prayer (Ave Verum Corpus)

Body of Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary,
body bowed in agony,
raised upon the cross
and offered for us in sacrifice,
body pierced and flowing with blood and water,
come at the hour of our death
as our living bread,
the foretaste of eternal glory:
come, Lord Jesus,
loving and gracious Son of Mary.

Prayer for Mercy

Lord Jesus, forever merciful,
Creator and Redeemer, hear my prayer.
Because you love those who ask forgiveness,
look mercifully on me
as you once looked on the sinful woman
and on Peter who denied you.
Look on me, Lord Jesus, as you looked at the thief on the cross
and on every sinner you have ever forgiven.
Look on me, merciful Lord, as you looked on Mary,
your mother,
standing in sorrow beside your cross.
Put into my heart her compassionate love for you,
and let my eyes weep for your sorrows, caused by my sins.
Call me from my darkness to my Father's house;
give me a new heart and a place at your side
at the table you have prepared. Amen.

The Steps of the Passion

Jesus, sorrowful and lonely in the Garden of Olives,
have mercy on the lonely and forgotten.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, forsaken by your followers,
have mercy on us when we are unfaithful to you.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, condemned to death unjustly,
have mercy on those who suffer from injustice.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, publicly stripped of your garments,
have mercy on those who have been humiliated and stripped of their human
dignity.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, crowned with thorns, an object of derision,
have mercy on those who suffer because of mental torment.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, burdened with the weight of your Cross,
have mercy on us as we struggle under the weight of our own Cross.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, suffering on your Cross from thirst,
have mercy on those who suffer from hunger and want.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, dying upon the Cross abandoned by your followers,
have mercy on those who will die this day.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, taken down from your Cross and laid in the arms of your sorrowing Mother,
have mercy on those who bear the burden of grief.
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, laid to rest in the tomb,
have mercy on us and give us courage as we await the hope your resurrection brings.
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

Father, your only Son took upon himself the sufferings and weakness of the whole human race; through his passion and cross he taught us how good can be brought out of suffering. Look upon us with love. In the midst of our sufferings, may we be united with Christ, who heals both body and soul.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading

A Reading from the Letters of Saint Paul of the Cross (Lettere 1, 43; 2, 440)

It is very good and holy to consider the passion of our Lord and to meditate on it, for by this sacred path we reach union with God. In this most holy school we learn true wisdom, for it was there that all the saints learned it. Indeed when the cross of our dear Jesus has planted its roots more deeply in your hearts, then will you rejoice: "To suffer and not to die," or, "Either to suffer or to die," or better: "Neither to suffer, nor to die, but only to turn perfectly to the will of God."

Love is a unifying virtue which takes upon itself the torments of its beloved Lord. It is a fire reaching through to the inmost soul. It transforms the lover into the one loved. More deeply, love intermingles with grief, and grief with love, and a certain blending of love and grief occurs. They become so united that we can no longer distinguish love from grief nor grief from love. Thus the loving heart rejoices in its sorrow and exults in its grieving love.

Therefore, be constant in practicing every virtue, and especially in imitating the patience of our dear Jesus, for this is the summit of pure love. Live in such a way that all may know that you bear outwardly as well as inwardly the image of

Christ crucified, the model of all gentleness and mercy. For if a man is united inwardly with the Son of the living God, he also bears his likeness outwardly by his continual practice of heroic goodness, and especially through a patience reinforced by courage, which does not complain either secretly or in public. Conceal yourselves in Jesus crucified and hope for nothing except that all men be thoroughly converted to his will.

Silent prayer (2 minutes)

Second Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 1:17-25)

Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel – not with wordy “wisdom,” however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning! The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to those who are experiencing salvation it is the power of God. Scriptures says: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and thwart the cleverness of the clever”. Where is the wise man to be found? Where is the master of worldly argument? Has not God turned the wisdom of the world into folly? Since in God’s wisdom the world did not come to know him through “wisdom,” it pleased God to save those who believe through the absurdity of the preaching of the gospel. Yes, Jews demand “signs” and Greeks look for “wisdom”, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews, and an absurdity to gentiles; but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s folly is wiser than men, and his weakness more powerful than men.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord will heal the broken heart.
 God will seek the lost and find them.

I will bless the Lord all of my days.
I will bless the Lord and give God praise.
For the humble heart the Lord will guard.
In the Father’s care may you rest from harm. (R.)

You who live in love shall never die.
You who keep your word
Need never hide.
For the Lord will seek the righteous soul.
May the peace of God
Be your life and hope. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
Alleluia.

Gospel

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 3: 13-17)

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily

Silent prayer & adoration (5 minutes)

Hymn for Reflection

Be still and know that I am God

Litany of the Passion

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy,
Christ hear us,
God the Father of heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Jesus, Eternal Son of God,
Jesus, born into the family of mankind,
Jesus, rejected by the world you came to save,
Jesus, bargained for and sold for money,
Jesus, foreseeing your torments and sweating blood,
Jesus, betrayed by a false friend,
Jesus, deserted by those you loved,
Jesus, slapped on the face and spat upon in a court of justice,
Jesus, accused by liars,
Jesus, disowned by Peter,
Jesus, insulted by Herod,
Jesus, condemned to death by a coward,
Jesus, beaten with whips,
Jesus, crowned with thorns,
Jesus, rejected for the murderer, Barabbas,
Jesus, burdened by the cross,
Jesus, stripped of your clothing,
Jesus, nailed to a cross,
Jesus, taunted in your pain,
Jesus, abandoned by your Father,
Jesus, shedding the last drop of your blood and dying for us,
Jesus, laid in a tomb,
Jesus, rising in glory,
Jesus, ascending into heaven,
Jesus, sending down the Holy Spirit,
Jesus, our ransom,

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ graciously hear us
have mercy on us**

Jesus, our brother,
Jesus, our God,

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lord Jesus, we stand in awe before the profound mystery of your life and death, and try to understand it. You deserted the glory of heaven, assumed the lowliness of human nature, and involved yourself in the worst kind of human fate. And you did it because you loved us. In all this you are telling us that the real majesty of God is not the glory of his power but the unsearchable depth of his love.

God is not a king like Caesar demanding the tribute of our homage; he is a slave to our welfare, as you were in your Passion: a God bloodied and in pain, a God laughed at and disgraced, a God afraid as you were in the Garden; yet not afraid to suffer all this to show how much you love us. Help us, O Jesus, to appreciate the dimensions of your love and respond to it.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

Time of silence for our own prayers and petitions

Hymn:

We hold the death of the Lord (Now we remain)

Act of Trust in God's Mercy

Most merciful Jesus,
I turn to You in my need.
You are worthy of my complete trust.
You are faithful in all things.
When my life is filled with confusion, give me clarity and faith.
When I am tempted to despair, fill my soul with hope.

Most merciful Jesus,
I trust You in all things.
I trust in Your perfect plan for my life.
I trust You when I cannot comprehend Your divine Will.
I trust You when all feels lost.

Jesus, I trust You more than I trust myself.

Most merciful Jesus,
You are all-knowing.
Nothing is beyond Your sight.
You are all-loving.
Nothing in my life is beyond Your concern.
You are all-powerful.
Nothing is beyond Your grace.

Most merciful Jesus,
I trust in You,
I trust in You,
I trust in You.
May I trust You always and in all things.
May I daily surrender to Your Divine Mercy.
Amen.

We pray together in the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you
who loved me so completely,
who embraced the cross so willingly,
who hung there so patiently
You died for me, a sinner,
and rose on the third day.
Now, Lord, I give myself to your love,
to the power of your Passion,
to the depths of your endless mercy.
Jesus, in your pity without measure,
keep alive in me the memory
of your holy wounds and bitter death.
Gentle Jesus,
defend me from all danger
and keep me so that I may stand before you in joy.
Keep my soul, Lord,
which you have bought
with your precious blood.

Amen.

Hymn (Incensation)

Only in God

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death.
May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood
help us to experience the salvation won for us
and the peace of the kingdom,
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his holy name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be his most precious blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and immaculate conception.
Blessed be her glorious assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

Deposition Hymn:

Benedictus qui venit.

Final Hymn

O Lord my God (How great thou art)