

## **Virtual Eucharistic Adoration**

*Create a prayerful setting for this special time with the Lord and access an on-line chapel.  
May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be an opportunity  
to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ entrusted to his Church.*

## **APRIL CONTEMPLATION**

*Always be happy and everything will go along better.  
– St. Gaspar #1885*

### **Opening Prayer**

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.

### ***Silent Reflection***

*Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.*

### **Prayer Before Reading Scripture**

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:** *(Hebrews 10:32-39)*

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews*

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 119: 1-3, 9-10, 13-14*)

**Response:** *How blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.*

How blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
Who walk in the law of the LORD. *R/.*

How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.  
They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways. *R/.*

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.  
With all my heart I have sought You;  
Do not let me wander from Your commandments. *R/.*

With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth.  
I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.  
I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word. *R/.*

**Glory Be...**

### **Reflection from the Catechism: Thy Kingdom come**

In the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come" refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God through Christ's return. (cf. Titus 2:13) But, far from distracting the Church from her mission in this present world, this desire commits her to it all the more strongly. Since Pentecost, the coming of that Reign is the work of the Spirit of the Lord who "complete[s] his work on earth and brings us the fullness of grace." [Roman Missal, Eucharistic Prayer IV] (CCC, 2818)  
"The kingdom of God [is] righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Rom.14:17) (CCC,2819)

### **Seasonal Prayer: Prayer for Faith in the Risen Lord**

Father in heaven, in the Resurrection of Your Son we come to know the full depth of Your love. You have freed us from the darkness of error and sin. Increase my understanding and my love of the riches You have revealed in Him Who is Lord forever. May the light of faith shine in my words and actions. Help me to cling to Your truths with fidelity. May I, who have received your gift of faith, share in the new life of the Risen Christ. Keep me alive in Him, ever true to His teaching till Your glory is revealed in me. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### *Silent Reflection*

### **Meditation: *Spe Salvi, The transformation of Christian faith-hope in the modern age***

...reason is God's great gift to man, and the victory of reason over unreason is also a goal of the Christian life. But when does reason truly triumph? When it is detached from God? When it has become blind to God? Is the reason behind action and capacity for action the whole of reason?... Given the developments of the modern age, the quotation from Saint Paul, "without hope and without God in the world," (*Eph 2:12*) proves to be thoroughly realistic and plainly true. There is no doubt, therefore, that a "Kingdom of God" accomplished without God—a kingdom therefore of man alone—inevitably ends up as the "perverse end" of all things as described by Kant: we have seen it, and we see it over and over again. Yet neither is there any doubt that God truly enters into human affairs only when, rather than being present merely in our thinking, he himself comes towards us and speaks to us. Reason therefore needs faith if it is to be completely itself: reason and faith need one another in order to fulfil their true nature and their mission.<sup>23</sup>

\* In memory of Pope Benedict XVI, this year's **Meditations** will be taken from his encyclical *Spe Salvi – in hope we were saved* - that reminds us of the future awaiting us in Jesus Christ.

"The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." *Spe Salvi*, 2  
*April 2023* E-2

## **Intentions**

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions 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 Intention for a culture of peace and non-violence:

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

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/.*

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/.*

### **The Blood of Christ is Life for all Our Needs**

Eternal Father, we offer you the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, poured out on the cross and offered daily on the altar:

- ✦ For the glory of your name, for the coming of your kingdom and for the salvation of all.
- ✦ For the propagation of faith, for Pope Francis, for bishops, priests, and religious and for the sanctification of all the people of God.
- ✦ For the conversion of sinners, for the loving acceptance of your Word, and for the union of all Christians.
- ✦ For civil authorities, for the strengthening of public morals, and for peace and justice among all nations.
- ✦ For the sanctification of our work and suffering, for the poor, sick and afflicted, and for all who rely on our prayers.
- ✦ For our own spiritual and temporal needs, for those of our relatives, benefactors, and also for those of our enemies.
- ✦ For those who are to die this day, for the souls in purgatory, and for our final union with Christ in Glory.

### **Our Father...**

*Silent Reflection*

### **Closing Prayer: Precious Blood Prayer**

**All:** Almighty and Eternal God, you have appointed your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by his Blood. Grant we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Lady of the Most Precious Blood, pray for us.

St. Gaspar, pray for us, St. Maria De Mattias, pray for us, St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.