

HOM Friday of the Lord's Passion C 2019

From the Cross, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, poured Himself out in love for us, even to His last drops of blood and with His last breath, according to His Father's will.

He did this, offering us oneness with Himself by way of the sacraments, beginning with the Sacrament of Baptism when we were united to Him by water and the Holy Spirit. This baptismal oneness with Jesus is renewed and brought to perfection in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood by which we are to offer ourselves to Him and with Him in Holy Communion to the Father's will unto the Cross and Resurrection. By this we are conformed to Jesus, and so, come to share His divine glory forever, and help others to do so.

That is truly the greatest love story that could ever be. The Creator reaching out to His beloved creatures – to you and me – to men and women all made in His Divine image and meant to share His divinity – to win us to Himself in nuptial oneness with His Son, as members of His Family.

In our YES to God's proposal, we must also join Jesus in reaching out to ALL whom the Father loves and wants to bring into His Household, His eternal dwelling. And so the words from our first reading that refer to Jesus also refer to us in oneness with Jesus. They are part of Isaiah's prophecy about God's Suffering Servant AND the members of His Mystical Body and Spouse-to-be, the Church.

I am going to read a portion of them to you again, substituting the personal pronoun YOU for HE (and the possessive form YOURS for HIS ) and also adding some explanation for certain phrases. As you listen, you can follow along if you like on page 163 of the Missalette – the last two paragraphs of the first reading.

***If you give your life as an offering for sin (i.e., to overcome and atone for your own sins and to help others overcome and atone for their sins), you will see your descendants (i.e., your children and spouse and all those you hold dear) in a long life (i.e., in eternal life) and the will of the Lord will be accomplished through you.***

***Because of your affliction (i.e., your self-offering to God unto the Cross of obedience and love) you shall see the light in fullness of day (i.e., you will live in the never-ending light of God's truth and grace in the new heavens and the new earth.)***

***Through your suffering, my servant (i.e., you) shall justify many (i.e., will help many get to heaven).***

***Therefore I will give you your portion among the great (i.e., you will be counted among the blessed and be rewarded along with the Blessed Mother and the angels and St. Joseph and the apostles and all the saints)***

Brothers and sisters, Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. And it must also be fulfilled by you and me -- the members of His Mystical Body, the Church, His spouse-to-be.

As you venerate the Cross today, you might silently include Mary's words of consent in your gesture of reverence. She was the first among us to join in Jesus' oblation for the life of the world, and she was thus perfectly united to Jesus and conformed to Him in doing the Father's will. So, as you bow or genuflect before the Cross and touch or kiss it, for example, you might say: LET IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD, which is what Mary said when she first consented to God's proposal that she be the Mother of His Son come in the Flesh.

Then, of course, at Holy Communion, as always, I invite you to join with me in a Eucharistic Self-Offering that invokes the Blessed Virgin Mary's help to do what she did at Calvary when her initial consent to God in bearing His Son culminated in her acquiescence to the Father's will in the sacrifice of Her Son and she joined Jesus in her heart in His oblation for the salvation of the world.

The words to pray silently and sincerely as you receive Jesus are these: I AM ALL YOURS O MOST LOVING JESUS THROUGH MARY YOUR MOTHER.