

NOVEMBER CONTEMPLATION

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: *(Revelation 7: 9-12)*

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a mighty shout, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!"

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. They sang, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *(Psalm: 67:1-7)*

Response: *May all the peoples praise you, God.*

May God be gracious to us and bless us; may God's face shine upon us. **R/.**

So shall your rule be known upon the earth, your saving power among all the nations. **R/.**

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!

May the nations be glad and shout for joy;
for you govern the peoples justly, you guide the nations upon the earth. **R/.**

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. **R/.**

May God bless us still; that the ends of the earth may revere our God. **R/.**

Glory be to the Father...

Reflection: * *Aperuit Illis*, #7,8

A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ (cf. *Rom 10:17*), believers are bound to listen attentively to the word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in their personal prayer and reflection.

The journey that the Risen Lord makes with the disciples of Emmaus ended with a meal. The mysterious wayfarer accepts their insistent request: "Stay with us, for it is almost evening and the day is now far spent" (*Lk 24:29*). They sit down at table, and Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and offers it to them. At that moment, their eyes are opened, and they recognize him (cf. v. 31).

This scene clearly demonstrates the unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, "the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord's body, in that she never ceases, above all in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the body of Christ" (*Dei Verbum*, 21).

Silent Reflection

Prayer

In November we traditionally remember all those who've gone before us with the sign of faith.

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen." - St. Gertrude

Meditation: *The "Mystery of Faith"*

Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful can in some way relive the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: "their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" (*Lk 24:31*).

...Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated *on the altar of the world*. It unites heaven and earth. It embraces and permeates all creation. The Son of God became man in order to restore all creation, in one supreme act of praise, to the One who made it from nothing. He, the Eternal High Priest who by the blood of his Cross entered the eternal sanctuary, thus gives back to the Creator and Father all creation redeemed. He does so through the priestly ministry of the Church, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity. Truly this is the *mysterium fidei* which is accomplished in the Eucharist: the world which came forth from the hands of God the Creator now returns to him redeemed by Christ.

The Eucharist, as Christ's saving presence in the community of the faithful and its spiritual food, is the most precious possession which the Church can have in her journey through history. This explains the *lively concern* which she has always shown for the Eucharistic mystery, a concern which finds authoritative expression in the work of the Councils and the Popes. How can we not admire the doctrinal expositions of the Decrees on the Most Holy Eucharist and on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass promulgated by the Council of Trent? For centuries those Decrees guided theology and catechesis, and they are still a dogmatic reference-point for the continual renewal and growth of God's People in faith and in love for the Eucharist.

Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 6, 8, 9.

Intentions

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

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: that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind, we pray. *R/.*

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

That our elected officials truly advance the call of the Church to respect all persons and care for them with the dignity they deserve, we pray. *R/.*

For all our family members who have died: bring them in joy to your eternal home, we pray. *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. *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. *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

* This year the *Reflections* will be taken from *Aperuit Illis (Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God)* the Apostolic Letter by Pope Francis to "enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (#2)

November 2020