

Let us pray together:

Heart of Jesus, Jesus, our Advocate, our Counselor,
only-begotten Son of God,
give the abundance of your life to all who seek you with a sincere heart.
In you is the hope of the future.
Direct us to the Water of Life that our thirst may be satisfied
and “like the deer that yearns for running water”,
may we always find in you the life-giving stream that refreshes,
our yearning soul. AMEN

Sacred Heart (Jamie Dillon)

Lord, make my heart like your heart
so I can live in you for you, Sacred Heart.

You know my heart and its ways, Lord;
you know my mind and its thoughts.
Forgive all of my faults, Lord,
and create what I am not.

Lord, make my heart like your heart
so I can live in you for you, Sacred Heart.

And when I am weary, Lord,
give me the patience to be,
a little more like you, Lord,
and a little less like me.

Lord, make my heart like your heart
so I can live in you for you, Sacred Heart.

And when there's pain give me two eyes that see,
and when there's wrong give me a tongue that speaks,
and when there's suffering let my heart be whole,
and where there's loneliness let my arms hold.

Lord, make my heart like your heart
so I can live in you for you, Sacred Heart.

V. Jesus, meek and humble of Heart.

R. Make our hearts like unto Thine.

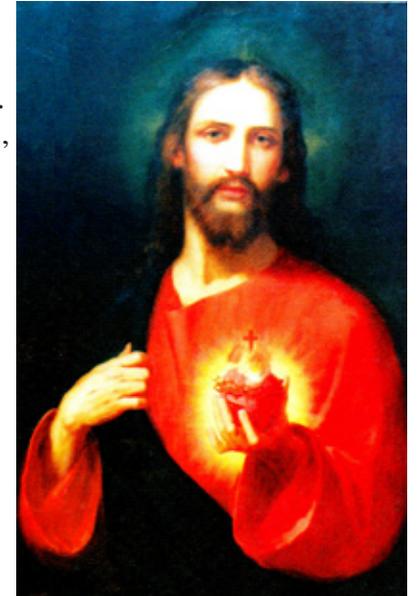


The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Let us pray together:

O Heart of Jesus, treasure of tenderness,
You Yourself are my happiness, my only hope.
You who knew how to charm my tender youth,
Stay near me till the last light.
Lord, to you alone I've given my life,
And all my desires are well known to you.
It's in your ever infinite goodness
That I want to lose myself, O Heart of Jesus.

Hail, Heart of Jesus, save me!
Hail, Heart of my Creator, perfect me!
Hail, Heart of my Saviour, deliver me!
Hail, Heart of my Judge, grant me pardon!
Hail, Heart of my Father, govern me!
Hail, Heart of my Spouse, grant me love!
Hail, Heart of my Master, teach me!
Hail, Heart of my King, be my crown!



Ephesians 3: 8 - 12, 14 - 19

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Response (together):

Hail, Heart of my Benefactor, enrich me!
Hail, Heart of my Shepherd, guard me!
Hail, Heart of my Friend, comfort me!
Hail, Heart of my Brother, stay with me!
Hail, Heart of the Child Jesus, draw me to Thyself!
Hail, Heart of Jesus dying on the Cross, redeem me!



A Reflection on the Sacred Heart

...to approach God implies coming into the presence of One who is deeply touched by the reality of suffering and sorrow. Our expectation tends to be that to be God means to be above the reality of pain. This is, indeed, mysterious to us, for we are accustomed to believing that God in his omnipotence would destroy all evil. We sometimes become deeply angry when He does not. "Why does God allow bad things to happen to us?" It is a question often on our lips.

The answer has to do with the relationship between divine initiative and human response. Looking at the Sacred Heart, one wonders why the flame of divine love does not destroy the wooden crown. It seems that there is something about the crown of thorns that is self-replenishing even in the face of God's love. The story imaged here is that of the ongoing battle between good and evil. The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus tells us that God's heart is as affected by that struggle as ours.

For Christians, and for others as well, that might seem to be bad news. It might appear to be saying that in the face of evil, God is as helpless as we often feel ourselves to be.

Yet that is not the message that the Gospels or the devotion to the Sacred Heart proffer. The Christian insistence is that the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ results in the ultimate triumph of good over evil, a triumph which is not yet fully realized in our world to date. The images of the glorious, yet wounded, God do not imply a lack of victory. They tell us, rather, that even after the victory has been fully manifested, the history of the human struggle for and against the ways of God will always be significant and never be trivialized.

- Extract from a reflection by Fr Paul Keenan

Response: (Corinthians 13: 1-9, 13)

Antiphon: Now is fulfilled the plan of the Father: to make Christ the heart of the world.

If I have all the eloquence of humans or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and if I have faith in all its fullness to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece and if I even let them take my body to burn, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. The gift of prophecy will fail, the gift of languages will not continue forever and the time will come when knowledge too must fail.

All: There are three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love. Glory be...

Antiphon: Now is fulfilled the plan of the Father: to make Christ the heart of the world.



Quiet Reflection

Response (together):

Hail, Heart of splendor, shine within me!
Hail, most loving Heart, inflame me!
Hail, most merciful Heart, work within me!
Hail, most humble Heart, dwell within me!
Hail, most patient Heart, support me!
Hail, most faithful Heart, be my reward!
Hail, most admirable and most worthy Heart, bless me!