

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be ...

The kingdom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come Lord and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

Reading 1

Behold, if all should be said against you which the malice of men can invent, what hurt could it do you, if you would let it pass, and make no account of it? Could it even so much as pluck one hair from thee?

But he who has not his heart within, nor God before his eyes, is easily moved with a word of dispraise. Whereas he that trusts in Me, and desires not to stand by his own judgement, will be free from the fear of men. For I am the judge and discerner of all secrets; I know how matters are; I know him that offers the injury and him that suffers it. From Me this word went forth; by My permission it happened, *that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed* (Luke ii, 35)

Counsels and Souvenirs

(A sister of Thérèse:) “When I am corrected,” I said to her one day, “I prefer to have deserved it, rather than be unjustly accused.”

“I would rather be unjustly reproved,” she answered, “because having a good conscience I can then offer it joyfully to God; but afterwards I humble myself with the thought that I am quite capable of committing the fault in question. As you advance in the spiritual life you will not have to struggle so much, or rather, you will overcome difficulties more easily, as you will approach them in the right way. Your soul will have been lifted above creatures. I no longer care what is said to me, because I know how faulty human judgement can be. What is the use of justifying ourselves when we are misunderstood or misjudged? Say nothing, let the matter drop, one can even rejoice in being misjudged. The Gospel does not say that St Mary Magdalen defended herself, when accused by her sister of neglecting her duty as she sat at Our Lord's feet. She did not say: “Oh! Martha, if you only knew what happiness there is in listening to the words of the Master, you too would leave all to share in my joy and rest!” St Mary Magdalen, however, preferred to say nothing ... O blessed silence, that brings such peace to the soul.”

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Let your hearts be free from fear, my peace I give to you.

(Silence)

Our Father

Intercessions

Response: Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison

(a time for brief spontaneous personal intercessions. Each intercession is followed by the Kyrie, sung by all.)

Concluding Prayer

Christ Jesus, even when you were overwhelmed with trials, you did not threaten anyone; you forgave. We too would like to be capable of forgiving, while remaining in great simplicity of

heart.

Salve Regina

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve
ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos
ad nos converte;
et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

Hail, Queen, Mother merciful
life, sweetness and hope of ours, hail
to you we cry, exiles, children of Eve
to you we sigh, mourning and weeping
in this tearful valley

Quick, then, advocate of ours,
those your merciful eyes
to us turn
and Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb,
unto us, after this exile show.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.