

# DECEMBER 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:** *(Heb.12:1-8)*

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm** *(Psalm 22:28-32)*

**Response: All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the Lord.**

All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the Lord;  
All the families of nations will bow low before you. **R/.**

For kingship belongs to the LORD, the ruler over the nations. **R/.**

All who sleep in the earth will bow low before God;  
All who have gone down into the dust will kneel in homage. **R/.**

And I will live for the LORD; my descendants will serve you. **R/.**

The generation to come will be told of the Lord, that they may proclaim to a people yet unborn  
the deliverance you have brought. **R/.**

## Glory be to the Father...

### Reflection: \* *Aperuit Illis*, #11

*Dei Verbum* makes clear that “the words of God, expressed in human language, are in every way like human speech, just as the Word of the eternal Father, in taking upon himself the weak flesh of human beings, also took on their likeness” (No. 13). We can say that the incarnation of the eternal Word gives shape and meaning to the relationship between God’s word and our human language, in all its historical and cultural contingency. This event gives rise to Tradition, which is also God’s word (cf. *ibid.*, 9). We frequently risk separating sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition, without understanding that together they are the one source of Revelation. The written character of the former takes nothing away from its being fully a living word; in the same way, the Church’s living Tradition, which continually hands that word down over the centuries from one generation to the next, possesses that sacred book as the “supreme rule of her faith” (*ibid.*, 21). Moreover, before becoming a written text, the word of God was handed down orally and kept alive by the faith of a people who, in the midst of many others, acknowledged it as their own history and the source of their identity. Biblical faith, then, is based on the living word, not on a book.

### *Silent Reflection*

#### A Christmas Prayer

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Meditation from *Dei Verbum*

In His goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will (see Eph. 1:9) by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature (see Eph. 2:18; 2 Peter 1:4). Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God (see Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17) out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends (see Ex. 33:11; John 15:14-15) and lives among them (see Bar. 3:38), so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself. This plan of revelation is realized by deeds and words having an inner unity: the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words, while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them. By this revelation then, the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation.

*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, Chapter I, *Revelation Itself*, #2.

## **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 our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer, we pray. *R/.*

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

That the Church, like the Virgin Mary, may bring Christ into the world with joy, and be joined with him in endless life, 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)

*December 2020*