

Taize Prayer Around the Cross

Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross

14th September 2018

5. O Christ, come and help our weak faith. We pray to you...
6. O Christ, create a pure heart in us; renew and strengthen our spirit. We pray to you...
7. O Christ, your Word is near, may it live within us and protect us always. We pray to you...

For a few moments we bring our own prayers to the Lord ... We pray to you

Leader: Together let us pray the words that our saviour gave us:

Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER: *We say together*

Christ Jesus, even when we can feel nothing of your presence, you are always there. Your Holy Spirit remains continually active in us, opening little ways forward to escape from our dead ends and to move towards the essential of faith, of trust. May we recognise your presence and let the faith be our guide. We ask this prayer, like all our prayers, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

CHANT:

***In manus tuas, Pater, commendo spiritum meum,
In manus tuas, Pater, commendo spiritum meum.***

Our prayer together around the cross is ended. You may wish to remain in silence and prayer. You may wish to depart quietly or you may wish to come to the cross to make a gesture of silently entrusting to Christ all of your burdens, as well as the suffering and burdens of the whole human family.

CHANTS AFTER THIS PRAYER:

O, o, o, Adoramus te Domine,

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice,
Look to God, do to be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.***



“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
(John 10:10)

**Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est**

OPENING PRAYER: Jesus, bearer of true joy, you entered fully into our human experience and transformed it with your love. You have reassured us that you came that we may have life and have it to the full. As we begin our prayer this evening may we experience the true joy that comes from being open to that love that knows no conditions and no end. **AMEN**

Psalm 90

**PSALM RESPONSE: *Bonum est confidere in Domino,
bonum sperare in Domino.***

1. O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.
Bonum est confidere in Domino, bonum sperare in Domino.
2. Before the mountains were born
or the earth or the world brought forth,
you are God, without beginning or end.
Bonum est confidere in Domino, bonum sperare in Domino.

3. You turn us back into dust.
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.
Bonum est confidere in Domino, bonum sperare in Domino.
4. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart.
In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Bonum est confidere in Domino, bonum sperare in Domino.
5. Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us.
Bonum est confidere in Domino, bonum sperare in Domino.

Silent reflection

READING: John 12:23-32

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—Father, save me from this hour? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Silent reflection

CHANT:

***In our darkness there is no darkness with you oh Lord,
the deepest night is clear as the day (as candle beside Cross is lit)***

Reflection from Br. Alois

A wheat seed by itself is just one seed. However, this same seed planted in the darkness of the earth dies to itself and becomes something much greater. It bares great fruit.

Christ brings a radical renewal of human beings. He first lived this new life himself and he struggled to remain faithful. On the eve of his arrest he broke bread while saying these mysterious words: "This is my body, given for you." Yes, he is "the Word made flesh." He turned his unjust death into a gift of his life. Risen from the dead, he breathed on his disciples to communicate the Holy Spirit, the very life of God.

The Holy Spirit sets the joy of the Risen Christ in the depths of our being.

Opting for joy does not mean running away from life's problems. Instead, it enables us to face reality, and even suffering.

Opting for joy is inseparable from a concern for other human beings. It fills us with unlimited compassion.

Tasting God's joy, however fleetingly, turns us into women and men of communion. Individualism as a road to happiness is an illusion.

Being witnesses to communion requires the courage to swim against the stream. The Holy Spirit will give us the imagination we need to find ways of remaining close to those who suffer, to listen to them and to let situations of distress affect us.

The road to happiness, in the steps of Jesus, lies in giving ourselves day by day. Through the lives we live, in great simplicity, we can express God's love. Do the lives we live reflect this love and bear much fruit?

Silent reflection

INTERCESSIONS - Sung Response:

***O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me...***

1. O Christ, by remaining faithful till death, you show us the road to greater love. We pray to you...
2. O Christ, by taking the burden of sin upon yourself, you reveal to us the way of generosity. We pray to you...
3. O Christ, by praying for those who crucified you, you lead us to forgive without counting the cost. We pray to you...
4. O Christ, by opening paradise to the repentant thief, you awaken hope in us. We pray to you...