

## **MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Year A**

*Friday after Body and Blood of Christ*



### **A reading from the book of Deuteronomy**

*God has chosen you because he loves you.*

Moses said to the people:

'You are a people consecrated to the Lord your God; it is you that the Lord our God has chosen to be his very own people out of all the peoples of the earth.

'If the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, it was not because you outnumbered other peoples: you were the least of all peoples. It was for love of you and to keep the oath he swore to your fathers that the Lord brought you out with his mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

'Know then that the Lord your God is God indeed, the faithful God who is true to his covenant and his graciousness for a thousand generations towards those who love him and keep his commandments, but who punishes in their own persons those that hate him.

'He is not slow to destroy the man who hates him; he makes him work out his punishment in person. You are therefore to keep and observe the commandments and statutes and ordinances that I lay down for you today.'

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial † Psalm 102:1-4.6-8.10*

#### ***The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.***

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

#### ***The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.***

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

#### ***The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.***

The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgments for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

***The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.***

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

***The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.***

***Second Reading † 1 John 4:7-16***

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

*We love God because he has loved us first.*

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves  
is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love  
can never have known God, because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God, but God's love for us  
when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

My dear people,  
since God has loved us so much,  
we too should love one another.  
No one has ever seen God;  
but as long as we love one another  
God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.

We can know that we are living in him  
and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit.  
We ourselves saw and we testify  
that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world.  
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God lives in him, and he in God.  
We ourselves have known  
and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves.  
God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God,  
and God lives in him.

The word of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 11:29***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Take my yoke upon you; learn from me,  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Gospel # Matthew 11:25-30**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*I am meek and humble of heart.*

Jesus exclaimed,

'I bless you Father,  
Lord of heaven and of earth,  
for hiding these things from  
the learned and the clever  
and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.  
Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;  
and no one knows the Son except the Father,  
just as no one knows the Father  
except the Son and those to whom  
the Son chooses to reveal him.'

'Come to me,  
all you who labour and are overburdened,  
and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.