

MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Year B

Friday after Body and Blood of Christ

First Reading † Hosea 11:1.3-4.8-9

A reading from the prophet Hosea

My heart is saddened at the thought of parting.

Listen to the word of the Lord:

When Israel was a child I loved him,
and I called my son out of Egypt.
I myself taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them in my arms;
yet they have not understood
that I was the one looking after them.

I led them with reins of kindness,
with leading-strings of love.
I was like someone who lifts an infant
close against his cheek;
stooping down to him I gave him his food.

Ephraim, how could I part with you?
Israel, how could I give you up?
How could I treat you like Admah,
or deal with you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils from it,
my whole being trembles at the thought.
I will not give rein to my fierce anger,
I will not destroy Ephraim again,
for I am God, not man:
I am the Holy One in your midst
and have no wish to destroy.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Isaiah 12:2-6

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Second Reading † Ephesians 3:8-12,14-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The love of Christ is beyond all knowledge.

I, Paul, who am less than the least of all the saints, have been entrusted with this special grace, not only of proclaiming to the pagans the infinite treasure of Christ but also of explaining how the mystery is to be dispensed. Through all the ages, this has been kept hidden in God, the creator of everything. Why? So that the Sovereignities and Powers should learn only now, through the Church, how comprehensive God's wisdom really is, exactly according to the plan which he had had from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is why we are bold enough to approach God in complete confidence, through our faith in him.

This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name:

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.

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 † John 19:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The death of Christ, the witness of John the apostle.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath – since the sabbath was a day of special solemnity – the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then the other.

When they came to Jesus, they found that he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

This is the evidence of one who saw it – trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth – and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture:

Not one bone of his will be broken:

and again, in another place scripture says:

They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

The Gospel of the Lord.