

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

XXXIV Sunday O.T.
Year C

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

There is the king of the Jews "according to men", a king equal to every other king of earth, who comes to deliver the people of the Lord from every slavery to which it was subjected from those who are not the children of Abraham. This king is not the true King of the Jews. The true King of the Jews is the servant of the Lord. Here is what this servant will have to do: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness" (cf. Is 42,1-7). "But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was

harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth." (Cf. Is 53,5-7). The King of Israel according to God is that man in whom all the prophecies are fulfilled. So that they are fulfilled in Jesus, He must remain nailed on the wood of the cross until the last breath. Here is why He cannot descend from the cross. If He descended, He would not be the King of the Jews according to God. What is preached about Christ Jesus must be preached for each of his disciple as well. Who is the true disciple of the true King of the Jews? The Christian who remains nailed on the cross of the obedience to the Gospel for all the days of his life. If he descends from the cross of the obedience is no longer a Christian according to Christ Jesus. God does not need a Messiah according to men. Thus is for the Christian. One can even be "Christian according to himself", but Jesus does not need these Christians and He does not need a Church "according to herself" either. May the Mother of Jesus watch over us so that we are neither "Church according to herself" nor "Christian according to ourselves."



LAMP UNTO MY FEET

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave

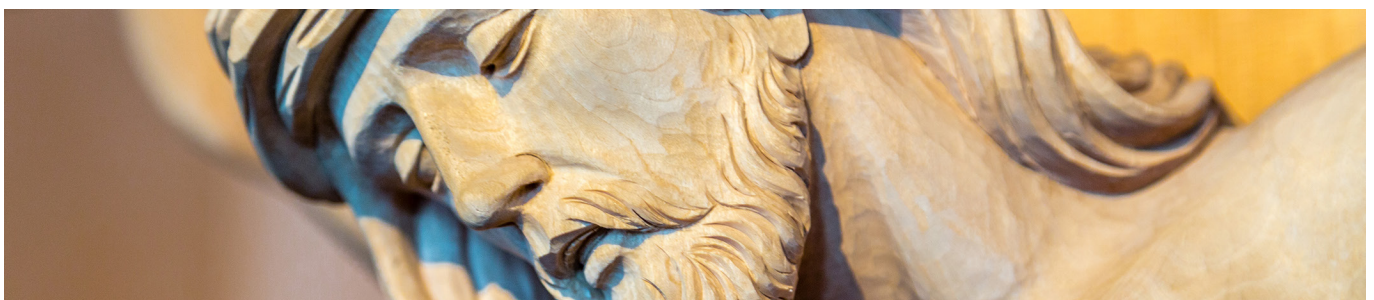
When man obeys the Word of God, his heart is filled with God. He remains living being. When man disobeys his Lord, he is emptied of God. He becomes clay again, but not clay, as it was kneaded by God: instead, it is a clay that is only able to create death around it now. From a being for life, it turns into a being for death. From a being for communion to a being only capable of selfishness. From a being for the others to be a being without the others. From a being for obedience to a being for disobedience. The full transformation of man makes this emptying. Adam, after the sin, does not even acknowledge that once it was flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone. After having been emptied of God, Eve was only the woman the Lord has placed next to him. Man no longer acknowledges earth either. It denies him every fruit. Now it produces thorns and thistles. If man wants to collect some fruits from it, he must moisten it with his sweat. Here are the fruits that this emptying caused by the disobedience of man to the Word of his Lord and God produces. Another truth is this one: once man has emptied of God, of his breathe of eternal life, only God might give it. We know that God gives it to him in Christ Jesus, through Christ Jesus,

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with Christ Jesus. If man wants to be filled with God again, he must pass through the way of faith and this time faith is in the name of his Only Begotten Son given to us for our salvation. Without the faith in Christ, man will remain emptied of God for eternity.

Christ Jesus fulfils an emptying that is totally different from that of man. He does not empty himself for disobedience. He empties himself for obedience. He is God. For obedience, he empties himself of God. He is the innocence made flesh. For obedience, he empties of his innocence, of his righteousness and lets himself be condemned as the greatest of evildoers, as the worst enemy of God and of men. He is the Most Holy and he lets himself be crucified as the greatest sinner. He is the eternal glory of the Father, he empties of this glory and lets himself be filled with every ignominy. He does all of this for love of the Father, for most pure obedience to his will. What fruits does this emptying for love and for obedience produce? It bears the glorious resurrection and the raising of Christ Jesus in the greatest glory of heaven. For this emptying, today Jesus is the Lord of universe. He is the One who has the Book sealed of history in his

hands. He is the Judge of the living and of the dead. He is the universal Mediator between the Father and the entire creation. Now every man finds himself before these two ways of emptying himself: that of Adam and that of Christ Jesus. That of Adam is a way of death generating every death. That of Christ Jesus is a way of life that generates every life. It is up to every man to choose which way to fulfil. If he fulfils that according to Adam, he only brings death, every death on earth. If he chooses that according to Christ, he gives life, every life, to earth. If the Apostles of the Lord do not proclaim Christ Jesus to men and do not invite to imitate Christ Jesus in his emptying, they condemn humanity to every death. But who can empty himself as Christ? Only the one who becomes body of Christ for the faith and the immersion in the water of baptism. Since we say that Christ must no longer be proclaimed, we do nothing but condemning the world to the emptying of death for death. Virgin Mary, help us fill ourselves with God and empty ourselves for most pure obedience to the Gospel.



IF YOU LISTEN...

Grant that I may truly look at the Cross of Jesus without sin

Only Jesus can remove our sin and we can only ask Him. He alone is the Lamb of God who removes the sin of the world. Looking at the Cross of Jesus without sin means looking at it with holy soul, with heart filled with wisdom, understanding, science and knowledge of Holy Spirit, with firm and resolute will that always attempt to obey every Word of Christ the Lord. Seeing the Cross of Jesus without sin is also seeing it in its most pure truth. What is the most pure truth of the Cross? It is the only way for the salvation and for the redemption of every man. Instead, today one looks at the Cross with the sin in the soul, with the absence of the Holy Spirit in the heart, with every foolishness and ignorance governing our life. Today for many of his disciples the Cross of Jesus is no longer the only way for the salvation of humanity. It is a cross as the other crosses. It is one of the many crosses of humanity, for one is ashamed to confess that the Crucified is the Eternal Son of the Father. He is his Word who made himself flesh. He is the God and the Creator of man

who has handed himself to the cross for love. He has handed himself over for our salvation and eternal redemption.

Today for the Christian looking at the Cross without sin has become impossible. His body is immersed in every vice, in every transgression of the Commandments. His soul is dead. His will is handed over to the disobedience to God instead of to the obedience to each of his Word. The whole man then lives of non-faith in the Gospel of the Cross and of the redemption. Thus looking at the Cross without sin becomes impossible. One looks at it with the sin in the heart and it loses each of its truth. Before many Christians, today the Cross of Christ has lost every truth. Losing every truth for us, might it ever have any truth for the other men? Never. Here are then all the lies and the falsities that we say about Christ, about his Gospel, about his grace, about his mystery, about his redemption, about his salvation. Seeing all things from sin, everything is seen from the sin and everything is deprived of each of his

most pure truth. But even if we are without sin, no one might ever look at the Cross of Jesus with most pure truth if the Virgin Mary does not come, does not take us and does not immerse us in that blood and in that water that pour out from the rib of the pierced Christ. This is what we ask Her: Come, take us, immerse us in that water and in that blood and we shall see Christ Crucified as unique and only source of our rebirth. We shall see Him and we will consecrate our entire life to Him.

Looking at the Cross of Jesus without sin means looking at it with firm and resolute will that always attempt to obey every Word of Christ the Lord

FROM JACOB'S WELL

Obeying the will of the Father and leave men on their crosses: this, too, is the cross that Jesus has to carry. He will have to carry it to teach his disciples that tomorrow they will also have to leave men nailed on their cross, for the Holy Spirit prompts them to go somewhere else to preach the Gospel of life. Why must one preach the Gospel of life and of salvation? To teach how one must live on every cross. Either the Christian teaches how one lives on every cross, or he attests not to be Christian. Today the failure of the Christian is great. He does not live on the cross of obedience. As soon as he has a cross, he does not carry it with Christ, in Christ, through Christ. Jesus has come to deliver us from sin, the builder of every cross. Delivered from sin, we carry every cross.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

How can we show the world today that great is the love of Christ in our hearts as the love of Christ Jesus for his Father was?

Here is what Jesus has done on our earth to show us how great his love for his Father is. He lets the world see his eternal light nailed on the cross. Not descending and remaining on it until the moment of his natural death. Seeing his light crucified, whoever is of good will shall give glory to the Father. It is not the men who arrest him, He lets himself be arrested. It is not them who capture him. He lets himself be captured. It is not them who crucify him. He lets himself be crucified. Jesus must show them that his love for the Father is so great that He does not even have a thought of evil against anyone. On the cross, Jesus always lived as holy, rather as most holy. He overcame evil remaining in the greatest good. Rather, offering his life in sacrifice for the expiation of the sins of the entire world. The light of Christ is true light for vision and for witness of the Father. The Christian, too, is light, light of the light of Christ, light in the light and for the light of Christ. He too must always remain light in eternity. He, too, is called to be crucified light for the redemption of the world. Remaining, the Christian, perennially crucified light in the crucified light of Jesus the Lord, the prophecy of Zechariah is fulfilled: "Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men of every nationality, speaking different tongues, shall take hold,

yes, take hold of every Jew by the edge of his garment and say, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." (Zac 8, 23). When a man chooses to be disciple of Jesus, he chooses to become crucified light in the crucified light of Jesus the Lord. The world has no power against him. However, he hands himself over to every cross, so that the world knows how much he loves Jesus. If he is crucified light in the crucified light of Christ, he must always remain crucified light. Thus the world, crucified his light does nothing but give perfection to the crucified light of the Christian in Christ. Letting his light be crucified, in Christ, the Christian cooperates to the redemption of the world. May the Mother of Jesus, help us live this mystery of crucifixion for the redemption.

When a man chooses to be disciple of Jesus hands himself over to every cross, so that the world knows how much he loves Jesus

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

You do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

May the Virgin Mary deliver us from every pestilence of vice and immorality

Who is truly the disciple of Jesus? What is his vocation in history? From what can we acknowledge that a Christian is true disciple of the Lord?

Parish magazine. Free distribution. Reflections upon the writings of Mgr. Costantino Di Bruno.

