**29 JANUARY 2023 – IV SUNDAY O.T. [A]**

**When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

**Who is blessed on earth and in eternal heaven? The one who lets, through the work of the Holy Spirit, his nature according to Abraham, nature of darkness, of concupiscence, of death, be turned into nature of light and of life always under the ruling, the motion, the leading of the Holy Spirit. The nature of Christ – let us speak about the nature of true man: in Christ there is also the nature of the true God – is poor in spirit, for it is entirely, totally handed over to the fulfilment of the will of his Father. His desires are those of his Father. His thoughts are those of his Father. His will is entirely that of his Father accepted as his will. The Word to live is that of his Father, Word written in the Law, in the Prophets, in the Psalms accepted as his personal Word to fulfil completely. Thus the Psalm: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire but my ears you have opened burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, “Here I am, I have come it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.” I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know. I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.” (Psal 40,7-11). Jesus weeps for He weeps to expiate all the sins of the world and He expiates them hanging them in his body on the cross. Thus the Letter to the Hebrews: “In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, declared by God high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Heb 5,7-10). Jesus is meek for he has stood every insult, every offense, every beat, every lash, the nail themselves in the greatest holiness. The Apostle Peter says about the meekness of Jesus: “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.” (1Pt 2,21-25). Jesus hungers and thirsts of righteousness for he lives only to do the will of his Father. Let us read in the Gospel according to John: “Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.” (Jn 4,31-34). Jesus is merciful for He has given every moment of his life for our reconciliation with the Father. There is no greater mercy that the gift of his own life for the salvation of the world. Jesus is pure of heart, for, never, not even on the cross, He has let neither an invisible particle of sin enter it. His heart is terse as the heart of his Father is terse.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5,1-12a.**

**When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.**

**Jesus is a peacemaker for through his sacrifice He has created in Him the peace between his Father and those who believe in his name to be saved: “For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” (Eph 2,14-18). Jesus is the persecuted for the sake of righteousness. He has been crucified to have announced and lived the most pure Word of his Father. He has also always been insulted, despised, calumniated, accused of blasphemy, outraged because of the name of his Father who has always defended in his most pure truth and holiness. May the Mother of God obtain for us this most pure grace: achieving the perfect conformation to the nature of Christ Jesus in our new nature.**