

THE BEATTITUDES

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit
the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are the gentle,
they shall have the earth as inheritance.

Blessed are those who mourn,
they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness,
they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful,
they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
they shall be recognized as children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness,
the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

- *Matthew 5: 2-10*

The Great Kenosis

Make your own the mind of Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God,
did not count equality with God
something to be grasped.

But he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
becoming as human beings are;

And being in every way like a human being,
he was humbler yet,
even accepting death, death on a cross.

And for this God raised him high,
and gave him the name
which is above all other names;

So that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

And that every tongue should acknowledge
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

- *Philippians 2: 5-11*

CLOSING LITURGY

Psalm 84

LEADER: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,

ALL: *Forever singing your praise.*

1. How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!
My soul longs and yearns for the courts of the Most High;
2. Even the sparrow finds a home,
And the swallow a nest for its brood,
Where it may lay its young,
At your altars, O God of hosts.

1. Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
Forever singing your praise.
Blessed are those whose strength you are,
Whose hearts seek the road to Zion.
2. As they go through the Bitter Valley,
They make it a place of springs,
The early rain covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength.

1. For one day in your courts is better
Than a thousand anywhere else.
I would rather stand at your threshold,
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
2. For you are a sun and a shield;
You bestow favor and honor.
No good do you withhold
From those who walk uprightly.

CANTICLE: *Ephesians 1:3-10*

*ALL: Praised be the God of our Lord Jesus Christ
Who has blessed us in Christ
With every spiritual blessing in the heavens.*

1. God chose us in him
Before the foundation of the world,
That we should be holy and blameless in God's sight.
2. We have been chosen to be God's children
Through Jesus Christ, such was the purpose of God,
That all might praise the glorious favor
Bestowed on us in Christ.

PRAYER:

*ALL: O God, you have made us in your image and we
long to see your face. Quiet our minds and
enkindle our hearts, that walking the way of your
truth we may leave the imprint of your goodness
by the way we live our lives. Grant this in the
name of Jesus. Amen.*

THE WAY OF NO-WAY

To reach satisfaction in all
desire its possession in nothing.
To come to the knowledge of all
desire the knowledge of nothing.

To come to possess all
desire to possess nothing.

To arrive at being all
desire to be nothing.

To come to the pleasure you have not
you must go by a way in which you enjoy not.

To come to the knowledge you have not
you must go by a way in which you know not.

To come to the possession you have not
you must go by a way in which you possess not.

To come to be what you are not
you must go by a way in which you are not.

When you turn toward something
you cease to cast yourself upon the all;
For to go from the all to the all,
you must leave yourself in all.

And when you come to the possession of all
you must possess it without wanting anything.

In this nakedness
The spirit finds its rest,
For when it desires nothing,
Nothing raises it up,
And nothing weighs it down,
Because it is in the center of its humility.

- *John of the Cross (1542-1591)* -

There is in all visible things an invisible fecundity, a dimmed light, a meek namelessness, a hidden wholeness. There is in all things an inexhaustible sweetness and purity, a silence that is the fount of action and joy. It rises in wordless gentleness and flows out (to each of us) from the unseen roots of all created being, welcoming (us) tenderly and saluting (us) with indescribable humility. (CP)

There is not a flower that opens, not a seed that falls into the ground, not an ear of wheat that nods on the end of its stalk in the wind that does not preach and proclaim the greatness and mercy of God to the whole world.

There is not an act of kindness or generosity, not an act of sacrifice done, or a word of peace or gentleness spoken, not a child's prayer uttered, that does not sing hymns to God. (SSM)

(So, on this contemplative path) one thing above all is important: the "return to the Father." The Son came into the world, died, rose and ascended to the Father and sent us His Spirit, that in Him and with Him we might return to the Father. That we might pass clean out of the transitory and inconclusive and return to the Immense, the Primordial, the Source; return to the unknown, to the One Who loves and knows, to the Silent, to the Merciful, to the Holy, to the One Who is all. (CGB)

-Thomas Merton