

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

(Or)

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 32)

ANTIPHON: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

RESPONSE: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

LECTOR: The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

LECTOR: Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

TODAY'S READINGS Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

NEXT WEEK (3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A) Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

Becoming Parents

The four issues of Becoming Parents – A Spiritual journey include articles, prayers and meditations, written by leaders in the parenting world. The aim is to help couples spiritually connect with their baby before birth and help them understand the changes in their bodies and those of the infant. Four issues will be sent to the expectant parents over the term of the pregnancy and each issue will be delivered at a time that is personalised and based on the baby's due date. The four issues are available for \$20. Subscription details can be found at www.majellan.media or www.becomingparents.org.au

What does your heart say?



8 March 2020 2nd Sunday Lent Year A

Banal. Humdrum. Boring. Commonplace. Dull. Trivial. Uninteresting. Unremarkable. Quotidian. Life can sometimes be described by any one of these terms. Quite often we can experience even the most fundamental, the most profound things, like prayer, like the Mass, as banal and unremarkable.

Prayer can feel so much like interior self-exposure to empty nothingness and Mass can be so mundane that you struggle to see the point. Except you have some vague but persistent conviction that you should be at church to honor Jesus. That you should persist in the struggle to set yourself before God, to open the depths of your heart to his presence, to pray ...

You've heard the words of consecration thousands of times: "This is my body ... This is my blood ..." At one level, they are like any other words said by any other person at any other time on this planet: breath is pushed through vocal chords and quickly changing shapes made by tongue, teeth and lips in order to form sounds in a precise order. The difference, though, is that these words are the very words of Jesus Christ, spoken at a specific moment in time, on the night of his betrayal, the night of his arrest. The night before his death.

And yes, Jesus of Nazareth, was a man, like any other man who ever lived: he was born, he did some stuff and he died. He

even did some rather remarkable stuff and said some rather remarkable things: healings, exorcisms, parables, warnings, blessings. He was fascinating and charismatic—even on a merely human level.

But what does your heart tell you to see in him? What does your heart tell you to hear in his words, repeated countless times and in countless places over millennia, words repeated today, in your presence, at the altar? Does your heart tell you to see in him everything worth having, everything good and holy and true? Does your heart tell you to see in him and in his words the very love of God himself? An invitation to life and truth, to joy, to eternity, to resurrection, to a coming kingdom, to justice and peace, to life unending, to bliss, to a new heavens and new earth?

What does your heart tell you to recognise in his passion and death? What does your heart say to you about the empty tomb? He is alive and reigns now. He has "destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light," said St Paul. Even more remarkable: he is including you in this plan, this "grace bestowed ... in Christ Jesus before time began." In Jesus, he is thinking of you; he has been thinking of you all along.

W Chris Hackett
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