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Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am!” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.”

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the Lord’s messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the Lord’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command.”

Psalm 116

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted.”

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones. **R.**

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the Lord. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will pay
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Romans 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son, listen to him. *Cf. Mt 17:5*

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

DAILY MEDITATION: ROMANS 8:31-34

He . . . handed him over for us all. (Romans 8:32)

Yes, God loved us so much that he did not spare his Son. But what St. Paul doesn't mention in today's passage is how

persistent God was in handing Jesus over to us. Neither does Paul talk about how resistant we can be to this great gift.

At Christmas, God handed over his Son to us as a gift of *peace*. Mary and Joseph welcomed him openly, and a few shepherds embraced him, but the rest of the world seemed pitted against him. Even Herod and all Jerusalem feared him and trembled at the news of his birth (Matthew 2:3).

Then the Father handed Jesus over to us as a gift of *wisdom*: “This is my beloved Son,” he proclaimed (Matthew 3:17). He sent him to teach us how to live in love with him and each other. But rather than receive Jesus humbly, we questioned his every motive and were hard of heart and slow to believe.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, God offered Jesus as a gift of *glory*: “This is my beloved Son,” he said yet again, adding an impassioned plea: “Listen to him” (Mark 9:7). Still, even Peter misunderstood the gift. He sought to capture Jesus’ glory as a static memorial rather than a living presence.

God even used Pilate to hand Jesus over to us, this time as a gift of *sacrifice*: “Behold, the man! . . . Take him yourselves and crucify him!” Pilate cried. He didn’t even know that he was helping fulfill Jesus’ mission. But again we rejected the gift: “Take him away!” we replied (John 19:5, 6, 15).

On Easter Sunday, God gave Jesus to us again, this time as a gift of *forgiveness and redemption*. And every day since then, he continues to offer Jesus to us in the humble form of bread and wine: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

Jesus is here. Accept him. Let him change your heart.

“Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but you still offer yourself to me. Help me to embrace you so that my soul may be healed.”

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(The Apostles' Creed may be used instead of the Nicene Creed.)

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if
You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never
permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.