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## **Gloria**

*(When it is prescribed, this hymn is either said or sung:)*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of life eternal.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Acts 9:26-31**

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord,

and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

## **Psalm 22**

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

**or R. Alleluia.**

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the Lord.

The lowly shall eat their fill;

they who seek the Lord shall praise him:

“May your hearts live forever!” **R.**

All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of the nations

shall bow down before him. **R.**

To him alone shall bow down

all who sleep in the earth;

before him shall bend

all who go down into the dust. **R.**

And to him my soul shall live;

my descendants shall serve him.

Let the coming generation be told of the Lord

that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born

the justice he has shown. **R.**

## **1 John 3:18-24**

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit. *Jn 15:4a, 5b*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and

throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**DAILY MEDITATION: ACTS 9:26-31**

*He tried to join the disciples. (Acts 9:26)*

There's a lot of adventure in today's first reading, isn't there? Paul, fresh from escaping death threats in Damascus, arrives in Jerusalem, where he faces suspicion from Christians and an attempted murder from some Greek-speaking Jews.

Why so much drama? Quite possibly God was using all this upheaval to “prune” Paul, to further purify him from remnants of his old life (John 15:1-3).

We are so used to talking about the saints as if their holiness were a given, but that's rarely the case. For many of them, the road to holiness was as long and winding as it is for many of us. After all, we know that Paul had a strong, assertive personality. Humility doesn't always come easily!

By his own admission, Paul was “an arrogant man” before his conversion (1 Timothy 1:13). You can imagine how some of that arrogance might still have been present as he tried to convert people. Maybe the man who had once spent his life “breathing murderous threats” against Christians still needed to learn Jesus' teaching about being poor in spirit (Acts 9:1). So it's possible that God was using the chaos Paul encountered in Jerusalem to help him examine his heart and see where he still needed to change.

Anyone who has lived more than a few decades will tell you how valuable it is to be pruned by the Lord. They probably didn't enjoy it at the time, but looking back, they could appreciate the fruit of such pruning. Coming face-to-face with our selfishness or arrogance or resentments can move us to turn to Jesus and ask him to purify us and set us free.

So let Jesus prune you from time to time. He promises that if you do, you will bear "more fruit" (John 15:2). You'll become more like him, just as Paul did.

*"Jesus, you are a wise and gentle gardener. Keep pruning me so that I can become more like you."*

### **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.