



**NOVENA
to
ST. TERESA OF JESUS**

FOLLOWING HER EARTHLY JOURNEY

All the passages for the Novena to St. Teresa of Jesus have been taken from Sacred Scripture, the office from the Divine Office of St. Teresa of Jesus and her writings with the exception of the official hymns dedicated to her. The author has merely put the texts together to form the Novena.

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DAY I

Created for communion with God



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus.

Hymn

*My God, how sad is
Life without You!*

*Longing to see You,
Death I desire.*

This earth's journey
How long it is;
A painful dwelling,
An exile drear.

*Oh, Master adored,
Take me away!*

*Longing to see You,
Death I desire.*

Dismal is life,
Bitter as can be:
The soul lifeless,
Apart from You.

*O my sweet Goodness,
How sad am I!*

*Longing to see You,
Death I desire.*

Scripture reading

“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground”. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth” (Gn 1:26-28).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

“We [should] consider our soul to be like a castle made entirely out of a diamond or of very clear crystal, in which there are many rooms, just as in heaven there are many dwelling places. For in reflecting upon it carefully, Sisters, we realize that the soul of the just person is nothing else but a paradise where the Lord says He finds His delight. So then, what do you think that abode will be like where a King so powerful, so wise, so pure, so full of all good things takes His delight? I don't find anything comparable to the magnificent beauty of a soul and its marvelous capacity. Indeed, our intellects, however keen, can hardly comprehend it, just as they cannot comprehend God; but He Himself says that He created us in His own image and likeness. Well if this is true, as it is, there is no reason to tire ourselves in trying to comprehend the beauty of this castle. Since this castle is a creature and the difference, therefore, between it and God is the same as that between the Creator and His creature, His Majesty in saying that the soul is made in His own image makes it almost impossible for us to understand the sublime dignity and beauty of the soul” (*1 Mansions 1, 1*)

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

In celebrating the holiness and wisdom of Teresa, our Mother, let us ask God through Christ, Our Lord, who seeks to be our brother and friend and say to Him:

Lord, may your kingdom come.

- You who taught Teresa to find in Christ, the source of true life, bring us, who listen to the one who is the Word, to drink the water of eternal life.

- You who gave Christ to Teresa to be a living book and path to holiness, help us to discover Christ in prayer, so that united with Him, we may run the path of perfection through to the summit.

-You, who has inspired the family of the Teresian Carmel in the Church to perpetuate the charism of her foundress give all Carmelites the grace to be heirs to the spirit of prayer and apostolic zeal of their mother.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

DAY II

The Virgin Mary leads us into union with God



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

Let nothing trouble you,
Let nothing scare you,
All is fleeting,
God alone is unchanging.
Patience
Everything obtains.
Who possesses God
Nothing wants.
God alone suffices.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhtPEGThc8Q>)

Scripture reading

“When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother”. From that time on, this disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19:26-27).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

"I remember that when my mother died I was twelve years old or a little less. When I began to understand what I had lost, I went, afflicted, before an image of our Lady and besought her with many tears to be my mother. It seems to me that although I did this in simplicity it helped me. For I have found favour with this sovereign Virgin in everything I have asked of her, and in the end she has drawn me to herself" (*Life* 1, 7).

"I understood that I had a great obligation to serve Our Lady and St. Joseph; for often when I went off the path completely, God gave me salvation again through their prayers" (*Spiritual Testimonies* 26, 2).

"Let us, my daughters, imitate in some way the great humility of the Blessed Virgin, whose habit we wear, for it is embarrassing to call ourselves her nuns. However much it seems to us that we humble ourselves, we fall far short of being the daughters of such a Mother and the brides of such a Spouse" (*Way of Perfection* 13, 3).

“Jesus is too good a companion for us to turn away from Him and His most blessed Mother, and He is very pleased that we grieve over His sufferings” (6 *Mansions* 7, 13).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

In celebrating the holiness and wisdom of Teresa of Jesus, our mother, let us ask God through Christ, Our Lord, who seeks to be our brother and friend and say to Him:

Lord, may your kingdom come.

- You, who together with Christ and the Holy Spirit has made a dwelling place with all those who love you and keep your Word, make us ever more sensitive to the love which has been poured into our hearts with the Holy Spirit.

- You, who has made Christ the head and foundation of the Church,

make us, like St. Teresa of Jesus, rooted in faith and love, to live and die in the service of the Church.

- You, who has glorified Christ, seating him at your right hand as our Mediator,

grant to our departed brothers and sisters an eternal place in your kingdom with Him.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

DAY III

St. Joseph is our protector and teacher of prayer



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

I live without living in myself,
And in such a way I hope,
I die because I do not die.

Since I die of love,
Living apart from love,
I live now in the Lord,
Who has desired me for Himself.
He inscribed on my heart
When I gave it to Him:
I die because I do not die.

Within this divine prison,
Of love in which I live,
My God my captive is.
My heart is free
To behold my prisoner-God,
Passion welling in my heart,
I die because I do not die.

Scripture reading

“Go to Joseph and do what he tells you” (Gn 41:55). “Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” [...] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus” (*Mt 1:19-25*).

Reading by St. Teresa

“I took for my advocate and lord the glorious St. Joseph and earnestly recommended myself to him. I saw clearly that as in this need so in other greater ones concerning honor and loss of soul this father and lord of mine came to my rescue in better ways than I knew how to ask for. I don't recall up to this day ever having petitioned him for anything that he failed to grant. It is an amazing thing the great many favours God has granted me through the mediation of this blessed saint, the dangers I was freed from both of body and soul. For with other saints it seems the Lord has given them grace to be of help in one need, whereas with this glorious saint I have experience that he helps in all our needs and that the Lord wants us to understand that just as He was subject to St. Joseph on earth — for since bearing the title of father, being the Lord's tutor, Joseph could give the Child command — so in heaven God does whatever he commands.

I have not known anyone truly devoted to him and rendering him special services who has not advanced more in virtue. [...] It seems to me that for some years now I have asked him for something on his feast day, and my petition is always granted. If the request is somewhat out of line, he rectifies it for my greater good. [...] For I don't know how one can think about the Queen

of Angels and about when she went through so much with the Infant Jesus without giving thanks to St. Joseph for the good assistance he then provided them both with. Those who cannot find a master to teach them prayer should take this glorious saint for their master, and they will not go astray” (*Life 6,6-8*).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

Let us glorify Christ, who loved his Church and surrendered himself for her in order to consecrate her.

Lord, protect your Church.

You who are head of the Church,
— may your faithful, united to you through faith and love, feel that they are members of your body.

You, who yearns that all who believe in you may come to perfect union,
— instil in all Christians an ecumenical spirit, so that they be one, just as you asked the Father.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

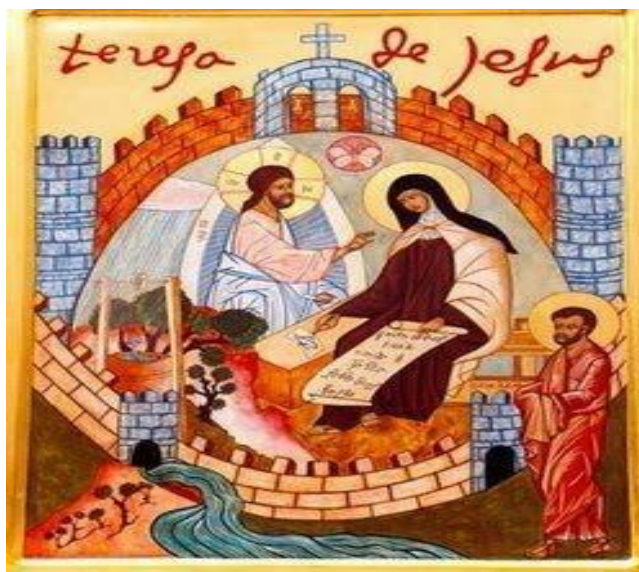
Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

DAY IV

Prayer is a loving relationship with God



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

When the Gentle hunter
Wounded and subdued me,
In love's arms,
My soul fallen;
New life receiving,
Thus did I exchange
My Beloved is for me,
And I am for my Beloved.

The arrow he drew
Full of love,
My soul was oned
With her Creator.
Other love I want not,
Surrendered now to my God,
That my Beloved is for me,
And I am for my Beloved.

Scripture reading

“The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind” (Pr 8:22-23, 30-31)

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (Jn 15:12-15)

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

"... So I say now that all of us who wear this holy habit of Carmel are called to prayer and contemplation. This call explains our origin; we are the descendants of men who felt this call" (5 *Mansions* 1,2).

“For mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us. [... For if] you have not reached the degree of conformity with His will, you will endure this pain of spending a long while with one who is so different from you when you see how much it benefits you to possess His friendship and how much He loves you (*Life* 8, 5).

“His Majesty said to me: “Don’t fear, daughter, for no one will be a party to separating you from Me,” [...] He gave me His right hand and said: "Behold this nail; it is a sign you will be My bride from today on. Until now you have not merited this; from now on, not only will you look after My honor as being the honor of your Creator, King, and God, but you will look after it as My true bride. My honor is yours, and yours Mine" (*Spiritual Testimonies* 31).

“Then, daughters, since you are alone, strive to find a companion. Well what better companion than the Master Himself who taught you this prayer? Represent the Lord Himself as close to you and behold how lovingly and humbly He is teaching you. Believe me, you should remain with so good a friend as long as you can. If you grow accustomed to having Him present at your side, and He sees that you do so with love and that you go about striving to please Him, you will not be able — as they say — to get away from Him; He will never fail you; He will help you in all your trials; you will find Him everywhere. Do you think it's some small matter to have a friend like this at your side? (*Way* 26, 1).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

In celebrating the holiness and wisdom of Teresa, our mother, let us ask God through Christ, Our Lord, who seeks to be our brother and friend and say to Him:

Lord, may your kingdom come.

You, who as a faithful friend, reveals the mystery of your immense charity to your elect,

— unite us with You with the bonds of your divine friendship, so that we may experience your love and announce it to our brothers and sisters.

You who has revealed yourself to the pure of heart,

— purify our eyes so that we may discover You in all creatures and events.

You, who resist the proud and loves the poor,

— make us walk in truth and live in service to the Church.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

DAY V

Jesus gives Teresa the mission to be a founder



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

*I am Yours and born for you,
What do You want of me?*

Yours, you made me,
Yours, you saved me,
Yours, you endured me,
Yours, you called me,
Yours, you awaited me,
Yours, I did not stray.
What do You want of me?

Give me wealth or want,
Delight or distress,
Happiness or gloominess,
Heaven or hell,
Sweet life, sun unveiled,
To you I give all.
What do You want of me!

Scripture reading

“My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice” (Lk 8:21). “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock” (Mt 7:24-25).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

“One day after Communion, His Majesty earnestly commanded me to strive for this new monastery with all my powers, and He made great promises that it would be founded and that He would be highly served in it. He said it should be called St. Joseph and that this saint would keep watch over us at one door, and our Lady at the other, that Christ would remain with us, and that it would be a star shining with great splendor” (*Life* 32, 11).

“On one of these same days, the feast of the Assumption of our Lady [...] a rapture came upon me so great that it almost took me out of myself. [...] It seemed to me while in this state that I saw myself vested in a white robe of shining brightness [...]. I saw our Lady at my right side and my father St. Joseph at the left, for they were putting that robe on me. I was given to understand that I was now cleansed of my sins. After being clothed and while experiencing the most marvelous delight and glory, it seemed to me then that our Lady took me by the hands. She told me I made her very happy in serving the glorious St. Joseph, that I should believe that what I was striving for in regard to the monastery would be accomplished, that the Lord and those two would be greatly served in it, that I shouldn't fear there would ever be any failure in this matter even though the obedience which was to be given was not to my liking, because they would watch over us, and that her Son had already promised us He would be with us, that as a sign that this was true she was giving me a jewel. It seemed to me she placed around my neck a very beautiful golden necklace to which was attached a highly valuable cross” (*Life* 33, 14).

“Well, as these little dove-cotes of the Virgin, our Lady, were beginning to be inhabited, [...] If they see their Order in some

decline; [...] they should strive to be the kind of rock on which the edifice may again be raised, for the Lord will help toward that” (*Foundations* 4, 5; 4, 7).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

In celebrating the holiness and wisdom of Teresa, our Mother, let us ask God, through Christ, saying:

Lord, may your kingdom come.

You, who yearns to set the world alight with the fire of your charity,
— make us servants and witnesses of your love before all men,
imitating St. Teresa.

You, who has inspired the family of the Teresian Carmel in the Church to perpetuate the charism of her foundress,
— give all Carmelites the grace to be heirs to the spirit of prayer and apostolic zeal of their mother.

You, who died for our sins and rose again from the dead for our justification,

— grant unto our departed brothers and sisters who await the revelation of your glory, the joy of the eternal Easter feast in communion with the saints.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies* 5, 1).

DAY VI

Pray for priests



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

Your father's home abandoning,
You went to herald heaven's King,
Or in a heathen land be killed,
And let your youthful blood be spilled.
But sweeter death ahead is planned.
A gentler pain makes its demand.
When Love divine Himself bestows,
A speartip strikes the wounding blows.
O victim of God's love, inspire
In us such hearts of burning fire,
And free the ones who trust you well
From falling in the fires of hell.
May all the virgins blest adore,
O Bridegroom Jesus, evermore,
And sing You wedding songs of praise
Throughout the everlasting days.

Scripture reading

The Lord said “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Lk 22:31-32).

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (Jn 15:7-8).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

“As a result, I resolved to do the little that was in my power; that is, to follow the evangelical counsels as perfectly as I could and strive that these few persons who live here do the same. I did this trusting in the great goodness of God, who never fails to help anyone who is determined to give up everything for Him. [...] Since we would all be occupied in prayer for those who are the defenders of the Church and for preachers and for learned men who protect her from attack, we could help as much as possible this Lord of mine. [...] O my Sisters in Christ, help me beg these things of the Lord. This is why He has gathered you together here. This is your vocation. These must be the business matters you're engaged in. These must be the things you desire, the things you weep about; these must be the objects of your petitions. [...] The world is all in flames; they want to sentence Christ again. [...] They want to ravage His Church [...] No, my Sisters, this is not the time to be discussing with God matters that have little importance [...] and when your prayers, desires, disciplines, and fasts are not directed toward obtaining these things I mentioned, reflect on how you are not accomplishing or fulfilling the purpose for which the Lord brought you here together” (*Way*, 1, 2; 1, 5; 3, 10).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

Let us glorify Christ who loved his church and gave himself up for her to consecrate her. Let us beseech Him that his Spouse may be always holy and let us say to Him with confidence:

Lord, protect your church.

You who are head of the Church,
— may your faithful, united to you through faith and love, feel that they are members of your body.

You, who established the Church on the ministry of Peter and the apostles,
— bless Pope Francis and all the bishops of the universal Church through the intercession of St. Teresa, our Mother.

You, who has elected priests with great love to be the light of your Church and to nourish your people with the sacraments,
— make your sacred ministers shine with holiness and wisdom, in accordance with the desires of Teresa.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give” Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

DAY VII

Pray for the salvation of sinners



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

*If suffering for love's sake
Can give such wondrous delight?
What joy will gazing on You be!*

Love, when it has grown,
Save in laboring cannot live,
Nor the hearty without fighting
Because of love for his Beloved.
By this love is victory won
And the desire to be right in all.
What joy will gazing on You be!
Since all people dread dying,
Why is it sweetness to You?
Oh, I will live
In a loftier way.
By Your death, O my God,
The weakest knows strength.
What joy will gazing on You be!

Scripture reading

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Lk 19:10).

“But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice’” (Mt 9:13).

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Mt 26:28).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

After the vision of hell “flowed the extraordinary pain that is caused by the many that are condemned [...] and the great impulses to help souls [so that] it seems certain to me that in order to free one alone from such appalling torments I would suffer many deaths very willingly. [...] This awareness also makes me desire that in a matter so important we don't grow satisfied with anything less than doing all we can on our part; let us neglect nothing, and may it please the Lord that He be served by giving us the grace to do all we can” (*Life* 32, 6-7).

"For it seems to me that He prizes a soul that through our diligence and prayer we gain for Him, through His mercy, more than all the services we can render Him" (*Foundations* 1, 7).

“Oh, what a difficult thing I ask You, my true God: that You love someone who doesn't love You; that You open to one who doesn't knock, that You give health to one who likes to be sick and goes about looking for sickness. You say, My Lord, that You come to seek sinners; these, Lord, are real sinners. Don't look at our blindness, my God, but at all the blood Your Son shed for us. Let Your mercy shine upon evil that has so increased; behold, Lord, we are Your handiwork. May Your goodness and mercy help us” (*Soliloquies* 8, 3).

“O Lord, my God! [...] Let there be at least one, at least one who will see Your light so that many might possess it. Not through my merits, Lord, for I don't deserve it, but through the merits of Your Son. Behold His wounds, Lord, and since He pardoned those who inflicted them, may You pardon us” (*Soliloquies* 11).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

In celebrating the holiness and wisdom of Teresa of Jesus, our Mother, let us ask God through Christ, Our Lord, who seeks to be our brother and friend and say to Him:

Lord, may your kingdom come.

You, who resist the proud and loves the poor,
— make us walk in truth and live in service to the Church.

You, who together with Christ and the Holy Spirit has made a dwelling place with all those who love you and keep your Word,
— make us ever more sensitive to the love which has been poured into our hearts with the Holy Spirit.

You, who died for our sins and rose again from the dead for our justification,
— grant unto our departed brothers and sisters who await the revelation of your glory, the joy of the eternal Easter feast in communion with the saints.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

DAY VIII

Teresa's spiritual life reaches its summit in the life of the Trinity



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus...

Hymn

Oh Beauty exceeding
All other beauties!
Paining, but You wound not
Free of pain You destroy
The love of creatures.

Oh, knot that binds
Two so different,
Why do You become unbound
For when held fast You strengthen
Making injuries seem good.

Bind the one without being
With being unending;
Finish, without finishing,
Love, without having to love,
Magnify our nothingness.

Scripture reading

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them” (Jn 14:15-17, 23).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

“It seemed to me I knew clearly in an intellectual vision that the entire Blessed Trinity was present. [...] And so it seemed that all three Persons were represented distinctly in my soul and that they spoke to me, telling me that from this day I would see an improvement in myself in respect to three things and that each one of these Persons would grant me a favor” (*Spiritual Testimonies* 13,1).

“Could one love the Father without loving the Son and the Holy Spirit? No, but anyone who pleases one of these three divine Persons, pleases all three, and the same goes for anyone who might offend one. Could the Father exist without the Son or without the Holy Spirit? No, because the essence is one; and where one is, all three are, for they cannot be separated. [...] God is all-powerful and that whatever He wanted to do He did, and thus He will be able to do all He desires. And when I understand less, I believe more; and this belief gives me greater devotion. May He be blessed forever” (*Spiritual Testimonies* 29, 3).

“After this I remained in the kind of prayer I now have, that of keeping my soul present with the Blessed Trinity. And it seemed to me that the Person of the Father drew me to Himself and spoke very pleasant words. Among them, while showing me what He wanted, He told me: “I gave you My Son, and the Holy Spirit, and this Blessed Virgin. What can you give Me?” (*Spiritual Testimonies* 21, 2).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

Let us proclaim Christ with joy, who is Lord of glory and crown of all the saints,

We praise you Lord.

You who taught Teresa to find in Christ, the source of true life,
— may we who listen to the Word drink the water of eternal life.

You who gave Christ to Teresa to be a living book and path to holiness,

— help us to discover Christ in prayer, so that united with Him, we may run the path of perfection through to the summit.

You, who has inspired the family of the Teresian Carmel in the Church to perpetuate the charism of her foundress,
— give all Carmelites the grace to be heirs to the spirit of prayer and apostolic zeal of their mother.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies* 5,1).

DAY IX

Encounter with the Lord



Entrance antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of Wisdom, in union with our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus.

Hymn: Pope Urban VIII

This is the day, when, filled with love,
And shining like a heavn'ly dove,
The spirit of Teresa flies
To temples high above the skies.
And then she hears the bridegroom's voice:
"The wedding of the Lamb, rejoice!
Come, sister, from Mount Carmel's height.
Come to your crown of glory bright."
May all the virgins blest adore
O Bridegroom Jesus, evermore,
And sing You wedding songs of praise
Throughout the everlasting days.

Scripture reading

"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do... I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world... I pray for those you have given me, for they are yours" (Jn 17:4,6,9).

“Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty’. [...] ‘It is finished’. With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (Jn 19:28-30).

Reading by St. Teresa of Jesus

“She asked to be given the Blessed Sacrament, because she knew she was dying. When she saw them getting up, she sat up in bed with great vigor, such that we had to restrain her for it was as if she wanted to get out of bed. With great joy, she said:

“My Lord, it is time to move on. How wonderful, your will be done.”. And she began to talk very tenderly: “O my Lord and my Spouse, the log-for hour has come. It is time to go off together” (*Witness statement*).

“We have now conferred - rather, We have acknowledged Saint Teresa of Jesus’ title of Doctor of the Church.... [...] We see her before us as an exceptional woman, as a religious, completely shrouded in humility, repentance and simplicity, radiating to all around the flame of her human vitality and dynamic spirituality; we see her, moreover, as reformer and foundress of and historical and distinguished religious Order, as a great and fruitful writer, as a teacher of the spiritual life, as and incomparable contemplative and with a tirelessly active soul.

The doctrine of Teresa of Avila shines with the charisms of truth, fidelity to the catholic faith, useful for the formation of souls. [...] She is regarded as one of the supreme teachers of the spiritual life” (*Homily by Paul VI, proclaiming Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Universal Church*).

Responsory

R/. My heart says of you: * Seek his face.

V/. Your face, Lord, I will seek. * Seek his face. Glory be to the Father. My heart.

Preces

Let us sing with joy to Christ, Lord of glory and crown of all the saints, who allows us to celebrate the solemnity of St. Teresa, our Mother, and say to Him:

We praise you Lord.

Lord, source of life and holiness, who has revealed the wonders of your love in your saints,

— we want to sing of your mercies with our Mother Teresa de Jesús.

You, who yearns to set the world alight with the fire of your charity,

— make us servants and witnesses of your love before all men, imitating St. Teresa.

You, who has inspired the family of the Teresian Carmel in the Church to perpetuate the charism of her foundress,

— give all Carmelites the grace to be heirs to the spirit of prayer and apostolic zeal of their mother.

(Additional intentions may be offered here)

Our Father...

Prayer for each day

“O my Lord, how does anyone who has so poorly served You and so poorly known how to keep what You have given her dare ask for favors? What can be entrusted to one who has often been a traitor? What, then, shall I do, Consoler of the disconsolate and Cure for anyone who wants to be cured by You? Would it be better, perhaps, to keep still about my needs, hoping You will provide the remedy for them? Certainly not; for You, my Lord and my delight, knowing the many needs there must be and the comfort it is for us to rely on You, tell us to ask you and that You will not fail to give”. Amen (*Soliloquies 5, 1*).

FINAL BLESSING

V/. God, our Father, who has called us
to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Teresa,
allow us also to be
participants of her holiness and wisdom.
R/. Amen.

V/. May He allow us to enjoy
the sweetness of his divine friendship
through the path of prayer
learnt at the school of Teresa
teacher of prayer in the Church.
R/. Amen.

V/. May He fill us with apostolic fervour
so to be, like Teresa,
joyful witnesses of his love
amongst mankind
and to be faithful sons and daughters of the Church.
R/. Amen.

V/. And the blessing of God, Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
descend on us
and be with us always.
R/. Amen.



“Holy, Mother Teresa, look down from heaven on this your family and lovingly take care of it; crown the work you once undertook on earth”.

(Ant. Magnificat II Evening Prayer (Spain))