

The Praise of His Glory - Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity

July 12, 2015 (OCDS, Latrobe)

Ephesians 1:3-14

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

"In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory." (2nd Reading, 15th Sunday Ordinary Time Cycle B)

Praise of Glory (Laudem Gloriam)

Heaven in Faith Retreat - 10th Day second prayer (#41-44)

(41) "We have been predestined by decree of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we may be *the praise of His glory.*"

It is St. Paul who tells us this, St. Paul who was instructed by God Himself. How do we realize this great dream of the Heart of our God, this immutable will for our souls? In a word, how do we correspond to our vocation and become perfect *Praises of Glory* of the Most Holy Trinity?

(42) "In Heaven" each soul is a praise of glory of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, for each soul is established in pure love and "lives no longer its own life, but the life of God." Then it knows Him, St. Paul says, as it is known by Him. In other words "its intellect is the intellect of God, its will the will of God, its love the very love of God. In reality it is the Spirit of love and of strength that transforms the soul, for to Him it has been given to supply what is lacking to the

soul,” as St. Paul says again. ”He works in it this glorious transformation.” St. John of the Cross affirms that ”the soul surrendered to love, through the strength of the Holy Spirit, is not far from being raised to the degree of which we have just spoken,” even here below! This is what I call a perfect praise of glory!

(43) A praise of glory is a soul that lives in God, that love Him with a pure and disinterested love, without seeking itself in the sweetness of this love; that loves Him beyond all His gifts and even though it would not have received anything from Him, it desire the good of the Object thus loved. Now how do we *effectively* desire and will good to God if not in accomplishing His will since this will orders everything for the greater glory? Thus the soul must surrender itself to this will completely, passionately, so as to will nothing else but what God wills.

A praise of glory is a soul of silence that remains like a lyre under the mysterious touch of the Holy Spirit so that He may draw from it divine harmonies; it knows that suffering is a string that produces still more beautiful sounds; so it loves to see this string on its instrument that it many more delightfully move the Heart of its God.

A praise of glory is a soul that gazes on God in faith and simplicity; it is a reflector of all that He is; it is like a bottomless abyss into which He can flow and expand; it is also like a crystal through which He can radiate and contemplate all His perfections and His own splendor. A soul which thus permits the divine Being satisfy in itself His need to communicate ”all that He is and all that He has,” is in reality the praise of glory of all His gifts.

Finally, a praise of glory is one who is always giving thanks. Each of her acts, her movements, her thoughts, her aspirations, at the same time they are rooting her more deeply in love, are like an echo of the eternal Sanctus.

(44) In the Heaven of glory the blessed have no rest ”day or night saying: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.... They fall down and worship Him who lives forever and ever....”

In the heaven of her soul, the praise of glory has already begun her work of eternity. Her song is uninterrupted, for she is under the action of the Holy Spirit who effects everything in her; and although she is not always aware of it, for the weakness of nature does not allow her to be established in God without distractions, she always sings, she always adores, for she has, so to speak, wholly passed into praise and love in her passion for the glory of her God. In the heaven of our soul let us be praises of glory of the Holy Trinity, praises of love of our Immaculate Mother. One day the veil will fall, we will be introduced into the eternal courts, and there we will sing in the bosom of infinite Love. And God will give us ”the new name promised to the Victor.” What will it be? LAUDEM GLORIAE

Prayer to the Trinity

O my God, Trinity whom I adore, let me entirely forget myself that I may be established in you as still and as peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing trouble my peace nor make me leave you, O my unchanging One, but may each moment may take me further into the depths of your mystery ! Give peace to my soul! Make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling and your resting place. May I never leave you there alone, but be wholly present, my faith wholly vigilant, wholly adoring, and wholly surrendered to your creative action.

O my beloved Christ, crucified for love, I wish to be a bride for Your Heart! I wish to cover you with glory, I wish to love you - even unto death! But I feel my weakness, and I ask you to "clothe me with Yourself" to identify my soul with all the movements of Your Soul, to overwhelm me, to possess me, to substitute Yourself for me that my life may be but a radiance of your life. Come into me as Adorer, as Restorer, as Saviour.

O Eternal Word, Word of my God, I want to spend my life listening to You, to become wholly teachable, to learn all from you. Then, through all nights, all voids, all weakness, I want to gaze on You always and remain in Your great light. O my Beloved Star, so fascinate me so that I may not withdraw from your radiance.

O Consuming Fire, Spirit of Love, come upon me and create in my soul a kind of incarnation of the Word: that I may be another humanity for Him in which He can renew His whole Mystery. And you O Father, bend lovingly over Your poor little creature; "cover her with your shadow," seeing in her only the "Beloved in whom you are well pleased."

O my Three, my All, my Beatitude, infinite Solitude, Immensity in whom I lose myself, I surrender myself to you as your prey. Bury yourself in me that I may bury myself in you until I depart to contemplate in your light the abyss of your greatness!

Let Yourself Be Loved

a post-mortem letter to Mother Prioress

"...when you read these lines, your little Praise of Glory will no longer be singing on earth, but will be living in Love's immense furnace; so you can believe her and listen to her as 'the voice' of God. ... What your child is coming to do is to reveal to you what she feels, or, to be more exact; what her God, in the hours of profound recollection, of unifying contact, makes her understand.

" *'You are uncommonly loved,' loved by that love of preference that the Master had here below for some and which brought them so far. He does not say to you*

as to Peter: 'Do you love Me more than these?' Mother, listen to what He tells you: 'Let* yourself be loved more than these! That is, without fearing that any obstacle will be a hindrance to it, for I am free to pour out My love on whom I wish! 'Let yourself be loved more than these' is your vocation. It is in being faithful to it that you will make Me happy for your will magnify the power of My love. This love can rebuild what you have destroyed. Let yourself be loved more than these.' " ...

"If you will allow her, your little host will spend her Heaven in the depths of your soul: she will keep you in communion with Love, believing in Love; it will be the sign of her dwelling in you. Oh, in what intimacy we are going to live. Cherished Mother, let your life also be spent in the Heavens where I will sing in your name the eternal Sanctus: I will do nothing before the throne of God without you; you know well that I bear your imprint and that something of yourself appeared with your child before the Face of God. I also ask you not to do anything without me; you have granted me this..."

"...Mother, 'let yourself be loved more than these': it is in that way that your Master wills for you to be a praise of glory! He rejoices to build up in you by His love and for His glory, and it is He alone who wants to work in you, even though you will have done nothing to attract this grace except that which a creature can do: works of sin and misery...He loves you like that. He love you 'more than these.' He will do everything in you. He will go to the end: for when a soul is loved by Him to this extent, in this way, loved by an unchanging and creative love, a free love which transforms as it pleases Him, oh, how far this soul will go!"

"...in the hours when you feel only oppression and lassitude, you will please Him even more if you faithfully *believe* that He is still working, that He is loving you just the same, and *even more*..."

Additional Quotations

- *Praising God in suffering (divine providence)*: "Perhaps you will say to me: 'How are we to glorify him?' It is very simple. Our Lord revealed the secret to us when he said, 'My meat is to do the will of him who sent me.' If you attach yourself ... to the will of this adorable Master and look upon every suffering and every joy as coming directly from him, then your life will be on of continual communion with him. Everything will be a sacrament which gives you God...God can be found in all things, and in a sense these things are nothing else but an irradiation of his love. So that is the way to glorify him in those states of suffering and weakness that are so difficult to bear." (Letter to Mme. Angles, Jan. 1906)

- *Remaining always in His presence (indwelling Presence):* "...in order to fulfill worthily my work of *Laudem Gloriam*, I must remain 'in the presence of God' through everything; and that is not all: the Apostle tells us 'in caritate,' that is, in God, 'Deus caritas est...'; and it is contact with the divine Being that will make me 'holy and immaculate' in His eyes..." (Last Retreat #6)
- *Simplicity and the unfathomable abyss of God:* "I relate all this to the beautiful virtue of simplicity of which a pious author wrote: 'It gives the soul the repose of the abyss' " ... The glorified have this repose of the abyss because they contemplate God in the simplicity of His essence. 'They know Him,' says St. Paul again, 'as they are known by Him,' that is, by intuitive vision, a simple gaze; ... then they are an unceasing praise of glory..." (Last Retreat #7)
- *Contemplation purifies and reflects His glory* "...it would give immense joy to the Heart of God if we would perfect in the heaven of our soul this occupation of the blessed and cling to Him by this simple contemplation... Such was the Creator's dream: to be able to contemplate Himself in His creature and see reflected there all His perfections, all His beauty as through a pure and flawless crystal. Is not that a kind of extension of His own glory? ... Then it is resplendent with this 'knowledge of the glory of God,' of which the Apostle speaks, because it permits the divine Being to be reflected in it 'and all His attributes are communicated to it.' Truly this soul is the praise of glory of all His gifts; through everything, even the most commonplace acts, it sings the canticum magnum, the canticum novum..., and this canticle thrills God to His very depths." (Last Retreat #8)
- *Blessed Virgin is the bright light; Jesus is the perfect model:* "...how all the saints remain in the shadows when we look at the Blessed Virgin's light! This is the unspeakable 'secret' that she kept in mind and 'pondered in her heart' which no tongue can tell or pen describe! This Mother of grace will form my soul so that her little child will be a living, 'striking' image of her first-born, the Son of the Eternal, He who was the perfect praise of His Father's glory." (Last Retreat #2)