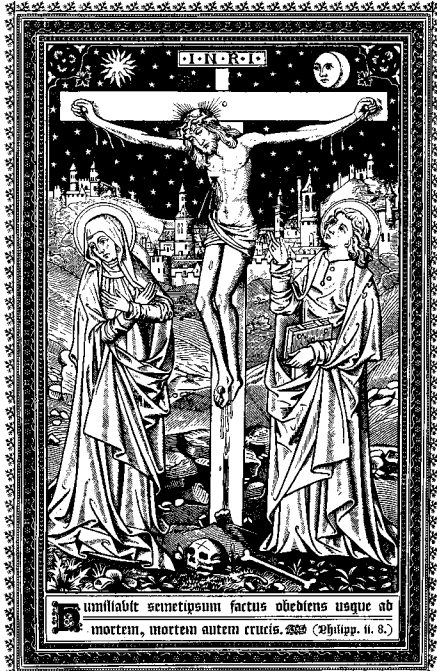


# The Passion of Our Lord



*A Dominican Devotion  
according to  
St. Catherine de Ricci, O.P.*

Alessandra de Ricci was born of a noble family near Florence in 1522. At the age of 12 she entered the Dominican convent of St. Vincent at Prato and took the religious name Catherine. Inspired by Fra Girolamo Savonarola, O.P., she worked constantly to promote the regular life. She was favored with extraordinary mystical experiences and at the age of 20 began to experience the sacred stigmata and weekly ecstasies of the Passion. These phenomena continued for 20 years. Despite her intense mystical life of prayer and penance, Catherine served as prioress of her convent for 36 years. She was noted as a kind and considerate superior, particularly for gentleness with the sick. She died on 2 February 1590. The devotion which follows is in honor of the passion of our Lord and was compiled by St. Catherine de Ricci.

*To begin, there is a reading from Sacred Scripture. The cantor kneels before an image of Jesus Crucified and chants each verse. The choir repeats the indicated verses. After each verse there a pause is given for silent prayer. The verses, matched with an appropriate psalm tone, are sung in a low voice.*

My friends avoid me like a leper \*  
those closest to me stand afar off.  
*Ps 38:12*

Imprisoned I cannot escape \*  
my eyes are sunken with grief.  
*Ps 88:9b-10a*

My sweat has become \*  
like drops of blood trickling down to the earth.  
*Lk 22:44b*

Many dogs have surrounded me \*  
the band of the wicked beset me.  
*Ps 22:17*

I gave my body to those who beat me \*  
and my cheeks to those who strike me.

*Is 50:6a*

I did not turn my face \*  
from those who spat at me and insulted me.

*Is 50:6b*

Because I am prepared to be scourged \*  
my sorrow is always before me.

*Ps 38:10*

The soldiers made a crown of thorns \*  
and placed it on my head.

*Jn 19:2*

They have pierced my hands and my feet \*  
I can count all of my bones.

*Ps 22:17b-18a*

For food they gave me poison \*  
in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

*Ps 69:22*

All who saw me mocked me \*  
they curled their lips and tossed their heads.

*Ps 22:8*

These people stare at me and gloat;  
they divided my clothes among them \*  
they cast lots for my robe.

*Ps 22:19*

Into your hands I commend my spirit \*  
you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

*Ps 31:6*

*The choir repeats this verse.*

Remember your servant Lord \*  
when you come into your kingdom.

*cf. Lk 23:42*

*In a louder voice:*

Jesus cried out in a loud voice \*  
and handed over His spirit.

*Mt 27:50*

*There is a longer pause now while the community prostrates on the forms<sup>1</sup> of the choir stalls.  
The cantor resumes in a louder voice and pauses briefly after each verse.*

I will sing forever \*  
of the mercies of the Lord.

*Ps 89:2*

Surely he has borne our sufferings \*  
our torments he endured.

*Is 53:4*

He was pierced for our offenses \*  
and punished for our crimes.

*Is 53:5*

We had all strayed like sheep \*  
each had gone his own way.

*Is 53:6a*

But the Lord laid upon him \*  
the guilt of us all.

*Is 53:6b*

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<sup>1</sup> Prostration on the form is a tradition Dominican posture of prayer, and can be done only in a proper choir chapel. In a parish setting, the people may remain kneeling.

Rise up, O Lord, why do you sleep? \*  
Do not reject us forever.

*Ps 44:24*

*The choir repeats this verse.*

This is God, my savior \*  
I am confident and unafraid.

*Is 12:2*

Come then, Lord, and save your people \*  
bought with the price of your precious blood.

*Te Deum*

V. Have mercy on us, O most sweet Jesus.  
R. Who lovingly suffered for us.

Closing Prayer:

Let us pray.

God our Father,

Look with mercy on your family

For which our Lord Jesus Christ

did not refuse to give himself up to the wicked

and to endure the suffering of the cross.

He who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*After the closing prayer the community processes to venerate an image of the Savior with a kiss or other sign of devotion while the enclosed hymn is sung.*

*Vexilla Regis* (LM)

The royal banners forward go  
The cross shines forth in mystic glow  
Whereon our Maker, to redeem,  
Did hang incarnate from the beam.

Hereon the Lord Whom all revere  
Was wounded by the direful spear;  
To wash us clean from every sin  
Came Blood and water from within.

Fulfilled is all that David told  
In true prophetic song of old,  
How God the nations' King should be;  
For God is reigning from the Tree.

O Tree of beauty, Tree of Light,  
O Tree with royal purple bright!  
That Tree long chosen from of old  
Those limbs so holy to uphold.

The blessed Tree, whose branches bare  
Upheld the world's high Ransom fair,  
As Body's balance weighed it well  
And took away its prey from hell.

O Cross, our one reliance, hail!  
This holy Passion-time, avail  
To give the just increase of grace  
And from the sinner guilt efface.

To thee, eternal Three-in-One,  
Let homage meet by all be done;  
Whom by the cross Thou dost restore  
Keep safe and govern evermore. Amen.

## READINGS

### **First Week - Is 42:1-7**

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

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### **Second Week - Is 49:1-6**

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly spent my strength, yet my reward is with the LORD, my recompense is with my God. For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to

him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

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### **Third Week - Jn 1:43-51**

From the Gospel according to St. John

The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.” But Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him.” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” And he said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

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### **Fourth Week - Is 52:13-53:12**

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him—so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals—So shall he startle many nations,

because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it. Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

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## Fifth Week - Jn 15:1-17

From the Gospel according to St. John

“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 everyone 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. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

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## Holy Week - Jn 17:1-26

From the Gospel according to St. John

When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them

in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”