

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Week of February 27

Reading I: Isaiah 49:14-15

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

The Eucharistic Prayer's Prayers – 2

*Father, you are holy indeed, and all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness comes from you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
by the working of the Holy Spirit. From age to age you gather a people to yourself,
so that from east to west a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name.*

These four lines of prayer which follow the Sanctus (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) in the third Eucharistic Prayer {EPIII} express the main purpose of our prayer: *the praise of God*. The foundations for our praise are twofold: first, the holiness of God; and second, all that God has done for us. But what does it mean to call God “holy” in the first place? What is the “holiness of God” that calls for our praise? The ancient Hebrew word that gets translated into modern English as “holy” refers to things that are *set apart, separate, or distinct*, either by nature, or by use. The most basic way God is “distinct” or “separate” is expressed in the very first line of EPIII as it makes the distinction between God and creation, *Father... all creation gives you praise*. It is the very nature of God that God is “other than”, “separate”, and “distinct from” the whole of creation. We could say that what it “means” to be God, as the source and creator of all that exists, is to be ‘different from’ everything that exists. God is the one from whom *all life, all holiness comes*, the one who is originally and ultimately other than all created things. *There is a God, and we aren't it!* This original and ultimate “otherness” of God is the first foundation or reason for our praise. The second reason we offer praise to God is all that God has done for us, and continues to do. What God has done/does for us begins with our creation and life itself, *all life comes from you*, and continues on to the formation of us into a community of those who offer our personal response of praise and thanks to God for all that God gives to us, *you gather a people to yourself, so...a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name*. The perfect offering of praise and thanksgiving we make is our lives themselves, how we live them, after the example of and in union with Jesus Christ, as summarized, symbolized and brought to life ever anew in our celebration of the Eucharist.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.

