

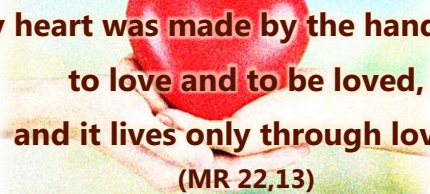
Community Celebration of Reconciliation

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

"Christ does not resign himself to the tombs we have built for ourselves with our choices of evil and death, mistakes, sins. He invites us, almost orders us, to come out of the tomb in which our sins have buried us. He calls us out of the darkness of the prison in which we are locked, content with a false, selfish and poor life:

" come out!"

It is a beautiful invitation to authentic freedom, to let ourselves be freed from the "bandages" of pride. Our resurrection begins here: when we decide to obey this command of Jesus by coming to the light, to life; when the masks fall from our face - we are often masked by sin - and we find again the value of our original face, created in the image and likeness of God. The gesture of Jesus who raises Lazarus shows how far the power of God's grace, our conversion, our change, can go: there is no limit to the divine mercy offered to all." (Pope Francis 6-4-2014)



**"My heart was made by the hand of God
to love and to be loved,
and it lives only through love."
(MR 22,13)**

The words of Francisco Palau to Gabriel Brunet help us to interiorize:

My beloved son Biel: I have come to this mountain not only to think on my own spiritual life but also on yours.

1. Looking at the matters of your soul, you are going on a normal course, on the other hand, suffering and struggling amidst defeat and victories. You have (I pointed this out to you several times) a bad angel that besiege you and is very wicked; and you fight poorly because you give in to many of its insinuations. Setting aside other weaknesses, the most serious are the attacks directed against charity, this is: ill-tempered, moody, fretful, unkind, malice against the superiors, subordinates and equals, temptations against others and not against you. Consenting to temptations lead to works, words and ways of behaving that is not edifying, this does not inspire love of God and piety. This is the most serious because from it spring forth pride, lack of humility, kindness, affability, and gentleness in personal relationship. God dissimulates and overlooks all of these except the fault against malice towards the neighbours, because they are against the Holy Spirit. If your faults against charity do harm those living with you, such are lamentable and irremediable.

2. You know all these. So let us go to the remedy. What are your preoccupations when you are working alone? What else if not your attacks and temptations in order to conquer yourself? Concentrate and gather all your little spiritual strengths and direct them at conquering yourself; turn your illtemper, moods, frets, unkindness and temptation against yourself. Humble the very formidable enemy that you are, with actions, works and words. Wage holy war against yourself and when you overcome the most terrible of your rivals, when you have humbled yourself, then you will be another person! (L 95)

ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY (Vineyard)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh1s0HQ_IDs

Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
All who are thirsty,
All who are weak,
Come to the fountain,
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of his mercy
As deep cries out to deep
(We sing)
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Holy Spirit, come.
Holy Spirit, come.
All who are thirsty

Nothing worse for the spiritual life than settling for **mediocrity**, in settling for the least amount of effort, adapting to the fact that things are the way they are and they're not going to change.

Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! (Ez 37, 12-14)

We give ourselves a good time for reflection

1. Take the first step and ask God to give you His light to recognize your "illness", your "sin".
2. Let yourself be seen, where it hurts, let Him heal your soul.
3. Forgive yourself and ask forgiveness of those you have hurt. Take advantage of the moment, you may not have another.

CHOOSE LIFE!

Together we ask forgiveness

We ask the merciful God to purify the hearts of those of us who confess to being sinners and ask for forgiveness of our faults and weaknesses.

- o That you grant us the grace of a true conversion, HEAL US, LORD.
- o May we be free from all fear of compromise, MAKE US RADICAL, LORD.
- o May you have mercy on our sins, HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD.
- o May we always be looked upon by You, OPEN US UP TO YOU, LORD.
- o May we always feel rooted in you, LORD, HAVE MERCY.
- o May we act moved by the power of your grace, LORD, HAVE MERCY.
- o May your forgiveness make us authentic witnesses of your love, INVITE US, LORD.
- o May we look at others as you look at us, GRANT US, LORD.

As a SIGN of our desire for reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters, we now stand before one of the people with whom we are celebrating this moment. We look at them the way that we feel God is looking at them at this moment. In that gaze we transmit them the forgiveness, the acceptance and the mercy of God towards them. May that same gaze be directed throughout these days to each of our sisters and brothers.

Prayer

The blood of the righteous
and that of the wicked pass through your very heart.

The sword of the one who strikes
and the one who gets the whiplash
are part of your own body.

In your tears they cry
the pain of the good
and the confusion of his assailant.

Your very tenderness
embrace the face of your mother Mary
and the soldier who nails you.

In your heart there are no outcasts,
we all fit in your body,
in your tears we all cry,
in your tenderness we all exist.

Let me come in with you
Lord, in your mystery,
And live in the home of your passion
where you reconcile the impossible.



Whole Heart (Hold Me Now) – Hillsong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqDWJ-8Sk7w>

Hold me now
In the hands that created the heavens
Find me now
Where the grace runs as deep as Your scars
You pulled me from the clay
Set me on a rock
Called me by Your Name
And made my heart whole again

Lifted up
And my knees know it's all for Your glory
That I might stand
With more reasons to sing than to fear
You pulled me from the clay
Set me on a rock
Called me by Your Name
And made my heart whole again

So here I stand high in surrender
I need You now
Hold my heart now and forever
My soul cries out

Once I was broken
But You loved my whole heart through
Sin has no hold on me
'Cause Your grace holds me now
And that grace
Owns the ground where the grave did
where all my shame remains
Left for dead in Your wake
You crashed those age-old gates
You left no stone unturned
You stepped out of that grave
And shouldered me all the way

Once I was broken
But You loved my whole heart through
Sin has no hold on me
'Cause Your grace holds me now
Healed and forgiven
Look where my chains are now
Death has no hold on me
'Cause Your grace holds that ground
And Your grace holds me now.