

The Evil That We See

The evangelist Mark reveals the many secrets of the Herod family. This family was actually troubled by many intrigues. The “godfather” of this rather infamous clan was Herod the Great who ordered the massacre of the innocent and was responsible for the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. This king killed his own son and wife on mere suspicion that they were plotting against him. When Herod the Great died, the Romans stepped in and divided his kingdom among three of his sons. The “Herod” in today’s Gospel was one of the sons of Herod the Great and he would be known as “Herod Antipas.” Herod got the name “the great” because of his construction achievements, but his moral and family life was a disaster. His legacy of evil continued with his sons; Herod Antipas married the wife of his own brother, Philip. And his decision to chop the head of the Baptist revealed a tyrant who has totally lost his conscience.

This story is incredible because it is difficult to encounter a complot filled by many people who had lost their moral bearings and have become really evil. What sort of a mother would ask her daughter to bring to her the head of a human person? What kind



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of daughter would obey the command of her mother to have someone killed? This evil scheme encountered in the royal court made the presence of a holy man like the Baptist useless. God seems to become helpless face to face with evil like this. But his helplessness is simply a manifestation of his endless patience. The magnitude of evil that God tolerates reveals the infinite measure of his love. He will bear it, allowing the murder of his favorite prophet.

Our history books are full of stories of Herods, tyrants and evil men who preyed on the lives of the helpless, the good and the holy. Their laughter and rejoicing contrast with the tears of their victims. How could God allow such evil to reign? But such situation easily slips into the past and these evil persons are no longer with us, buried in their graves and in history books. God still manifests his glory and power

in their passage; for they pass and he remains.

The presence of evil persons and families like that of Herod simply reminds us of the power of evil and how it can take over entire families and clans, transforming them into killing machines. We should then be sensitive to its presence in our hearts. Allowing sin to grow in us will also transform us into Herods and Herodias. We have the capacity to do what these evil persons had done if we are not careful and allow Jesus to possess our hearts.

Let me tell this story: Thomas Merton was a famous writer and a Trappist monk. He entered the monastery in 1939 when World War II was burning Europe. While others were blaming Adolf Hitler for the war, he felt responsible for the evil going on, writing that such evil is also present in his heart. One of the reasons for his entrance into the Abbey of Gethsemani was his conviction that he was also responsible for the war and wanted to stop it by the conquest of evil in his heart.

Have you passed through a similar experience, when you don’t anymore condemn but also prayed for the conversion of evil people, knowing that you may do what they are doing?

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 33 [32]:11, 19)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

The designs of his Heart are from age to age, to rescue their souls from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—In today's Gospel, Mark narrates the martyrdom of John the Baptist. Like Elijah and the other prophets, John was zealous for the will of the Lord for Israel, and so confronted Herod about his unlawful union with Herodias. He, the precursor of the Lord, was thus found worthy of a martyr's death, his last act of witness to Christ.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
(Pause)

P—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Clothe us, Lord God, with the virtues of the Heart of your Son and set us aflame with his love, that conformed to his image, we may merit a share in eternal redemption.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Heb 13:1–8) *(Sit)*

To the people broken and oppressed by tyrants, Isaiah announces the good news of God's visitation. This salvation is pictured as a complete healing of the land and of the people.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

LET BROTHERLY love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body. Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the immoral and adulterers. Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you. Thus we may say with confidence: The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me? Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 27)

R—The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;/ whom should I fear?/
The LORD is my life's refuge;/ of whom should I be afraid?(**R**)

2. Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear;
Though war be waged upon me, even then will I trust.
(**R**)

3. For he will hide me in his abode in the day of trouble; He will conceal me in the shelter of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock. (**R**)

4. Your presence, O LORD, I seek. Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant. You are my helper: cast me not off. (**R**)

Verse before the Gospel

(cf. Lk 8:15) *(Stand)*

All—Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart, and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mk 6:14–29)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

KING HEROD heard about Jesus, for his fame had become widespread, and people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Others were saying, "He is Elijah"; still others, "He is a prophet like any of the prophets." But when Herod learned of it, he said, "It is John whom I beheaded. He has been raised up." Herod was the one who had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias harbored a grudge against him and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. Herodias had an opportunity one day when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his military officers, and the leading men of Galilee. Her own daughter came in and performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask of me whatever you

wish and I will grant it to you.” He even swore many things to her, “I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom.” She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” Her mother replied, “The head of John the Baptist.” The girl hurried back to the king’s presence and made her request, “I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” The king was deeply distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

—The Gospel of the Lord.
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *(Sit)*

Prayer of the Faithful

P—John the Baptist gave testimony to Christ by his preaching, up to the shedding of his blood. Let us pray for people who are persecuted on account of their faithfulness to their mission. For every petition, we say:

R—Lord, hear our prayer.

C—May the Church be endowed by the Holy Spirit with apostles and prophets who denounce evil and sin in all their forms. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we be inspired to act by the example of those who devote themselves to the proclamation of the Gospel and serving others, often at the cost of their lives or of their comfort. We pray: **(R)**

C—May rulers and political leaders not run after people who trouble their conscience

by speaking the truth and asking for justice. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we fight against concupiscence, the temptation of the flesh, and the snare of the devil through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and through the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we be grains of wheat and instruments for the salvation of humanity, following the example of John the Baptist and of other martyrs. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Almighty Father, you chose the weak to confound the mighty and the proud. Be our refuge and strength in time of trouble. Give us the courage to stand by our faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

**LITURGY OF
THE EUCHARIST**

Presentation of the Gifts *(Stand)*

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—O God, Father of mercies, who because of the great love with which you loved us, with untold goodness gave us your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, being perfectly united with him, we may offer you worthy homage.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface II *(The Boundless Charity of Christ)*

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For raised up high on the Cross, he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church’s Sacraments, so that, won over to the open heart of the Savior, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God...

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Cf. Jn 19:34)

One of the soldiers opened his side with a lance, and at once there came forth blood and water.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Made partakers in your Sacrament of charity, we humbly

implore your mercy, Lord, that we may be conformed to Christ on earth and merit to be coheirs of his glory in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

May God bless you with every heavenly blessing, make you always holy and pure in his sight, pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory, and teach you with the words of truth; may he instruct you in the Gospel of salvation, and ever endow you with fraternal charity.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and

the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.

**BE A PAULINE PRIEST
OR A BROTHER**

CONTACT US:
**09998500036
09620465506**

PRAYER TO THE

SACRED HEART

of Jesus

Divine Jesus, you have said, “Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,” behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petition/s).*

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted, protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most

unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.