

Sacred Heart – Last week I explained 1st Friday devotions were a Sacred Heart devotion
This year Sacred Heart is June 8 (next Fri) – but since I won't be here then – TODAY

Hosea – Today's reading is all about God's love for Israel -
Even though Israel Sins – offends – over and over and over
God's Sacred Heart is ever faithful READ IT

God tells Hosea that when Israel was but a child – He loved Israel (same is true of us)
He took Israel out of Egypt He taught Israel like a child – how to walk
He took Israel in His arms He drew Israel close with love
YET – Israel did not know that God was their healer
“MY HEART WAS OVERWHELMED”

Even then – in the OT – the Sacred Heart of God was overwhelmed
For Israel – for us – for Benchmark
Salvation is OURS – because of God's love – the love of His Sacred Heart

Thus we have this Responsorial Psalm – but it's not a Psalm – it's from Isaiah 12 READ IT
NB what it says 1st Stanza “My strength and courage is the Lord”
2nd Stanza “Give thanks ... Acclaim His name ...”
3rd Stanza “ Sing praise ... throughout the earth ...
Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel”

WHY? Salvation is OURS – because of God's love – the love of His Sacred Heart

EPH 3

Paul says “To me, the least, grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles” WHY? READ IT

In 2nd ppg Paul says he preaches “That Christ may dwell in YOUR hearts through faith”
“To know the love of Christ and be filled with fullness of God”
Paul preaches the love of God so that OUR hearts may be full.
(in Sacred Heart)

Gospel

What better way for us to see the love of God – the love of the Sacred Heart – than in crucifixion
READ IT

During the crucifixion Jesus' heart is pierced
“Blood and water flow out”
NOT - leaked out NOT dripped out Not seeped out IT FLOWED

We are washed in the blood and water from the Sacred Heart
WATER – recalls baptism and our being washed from original sin
BLOOD – recalls the sacrificial lamb and our being washed from personal sin – forgiveness

Through the Sacred Heart we are washed, cleansed, redeemed
Covered by the blood of Jesus sin is forgiven – because He loves us
God told HOSEA “My heart is overwhelmed – I am the Holy One among you”
and that is true right here in Benchmark