

THE EUCHARIST

Prayer of St Thomas Aquinas after Communion

Attributed to St Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)

"Gratias tibi ago": the thanksgiving the Roman Missal kept for after Mass

LATIN

Gratias tibi ago, Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeterne Deus, qui me peccatorem, indignum famulum tuum, nullis meis meritis, sed sola dignatione misericordiae tuae satiare dignatus es pretioso Corpore et Sanguine Filii tui, Domini nostri Iesu Christi.

Et precor, ut haec sancta communio non sit mihi reatus ad poenam, sed intercessio salutaris ad veniam.

ENGLISH

I give thee thanks, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God, who hast vouchsafed, not for any merit of mine, but of the sole condescension of thy mercy, to feed me, a sinner and thine unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

And I pray that this holy Communion may not be to me guilt unto punishment, but a saving intercession unto pardon.

Sit mihi armatura fidei et scutum bonae voluntatis. Sit vitiorum meorum evacuatio, concupiscentiae et libidinis exterminatio, caritatis et patientiae, humilitatis et oboedientiae, omniumque virtutum augmentatio; contra insidias inimicorum omnium, tam visibilium quam invisibilium, firma defensio; motuum meorum, tam carnalium quam spiritalium, perfecta quietatio; in te uno ac vero Deo firma adhaesio; atque finis mei felix consummatio.

May it be to me the armour of faith and the shield of good will. May it be the emptying out of my vices, the rooting out of concupiscence and lust, the increase of charity and patience, of humility and obedience, and of all virtues; a firm defence against the snares of all my enemies, visible and invisible; the perfect calming of all my impulses, of the flesh and of the spirit; a firm cleaving to thee, the one true God; and the happy fulfilment of my end.

Et precor te, ut ad illud ineffabile convivium me peccatorem perducere digneris, ubi tu cum Filio tuo et Spiritu Sancto Sanctis tuis es lux vera, satietas plena, gaudium sempiternum, iucunditas consummata et felicitas perfecta.

And I pray thee to vouchsafe to bring me, a sinner, to that unspeakable banquet where thou, with thy Son and the Holy Spirit, art to thy Saints true light, full satisfaction, joy everlasting, gladness consummate and happiness perfect.

Per eundem Christum, Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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