

**Presence**

Dear Lord as I come to you today, fill my heart and my whole being with the wonder of Your presence.

**Freedom**

Lord you have called me 'the light of the world'.  
Let me be always conscious of those you want me to serve,  
The hungry and the homeless,  
The sick and the lonely,  
The stranger and the refugee.



**The Word of God     Matthew 11:25-30**

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy, and my burden light.'

Some thoughts on today's scripture

- Here the curtain is drawn back on Jesus' prayer: we see that he prays directly to his Father and pours out his joy and desires before him. We sense that he is totally in love with his Father and loves the way the Father goes about things! His is a grateful heart, no matter what difficulties life throws at him. I pray for the rich relationship with God that he has.
- To Jesus—who knows him best—the Father is merciful, caring, provident; he is totally on our side, loving us with endless love and inviting us into his company in eternal joy. During this time of Lockdown, we may find this difficult to understand. Perhaps we feel anxious, lonely or afraid. However we feel, let us try to respond, in whatever way we can, to Jesus' invitation, bringing to him all our weariness and burdens. Stay for a while in his presence, allowing him to refresh us with the peace which only he can give.
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the day of this Gospel passage, is the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena (1347 – 1380). Despite her young age, and being a woman living a secluded life, she answered God's seemingly improbable call to enter public and political life. As an ambassador she brought peace and harmony between cities and was influential in Pope Gregory XI's reform of the clergy and his return to Rome from Avignon. She is a Doctor of the Church. Her life is an example of how, if we are truly open to His grace, the Lord can do remarkable things through each of us.
- "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." St. Catherine of Siena – pray for us.

**Conversation**

Dear Lord, stay by my side always. Gain for me a trusting heart. Thank you for loving me.

**Conclusion**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.