

20 June 2019

*Let us forever adore*

“Adore” isn’t a word that we tend to use every day. It’s an unusual and rare word, a word reserved for things that are singular and far from ordinary. “Adorable” is different for some reason; we use that word far more readily, hanging it happily on particularly charming babies (or beagles). But “adore” as a verb, as in “I adore you” – well, that feels far more significant. To adore is to be willing to be laid bare before someone, to be fearlessly vulnerable, to love freely and without expectation.

The word “adore” comes from the Latin for “to pray” (*ad+orare*), and in its most ancient form meant “to worship.” Through the years the word migrated from a strictly religious vocabulary to a more personal one, and we can easily see why. What better word could passionate lovers reach for when trying to demonstrate the depth of their ardor? I adore you, I *worship* you, I prostrate myself before you, you who are the sun and moon in my world, the center star of my existence. The word “adore” expresses that kind of romantic fervor even better than the word “love.” “Adore” is a word that carries a delicious risk, a word that says you are willing to pin heart to sleeve and claim, “You are holy to me; you are beloved and precious beyond measure.”

This week at Atonement we will be using this word again and again as we enjoin one another to “forever adore the Most Holy Sacrament.” During this week of the Feast of Corpus Christi, as we celebrate the gift of Christ’s body, blessed, broken, and given to the Church in the form of holy food, we will reclaim this wonderful word and put it to good use. Let us forever adore Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament; let us worship and pray before Christ’s presence there. But perhaps, if we’re truly courageous, we will find ourselves using this word in a riskier, even holier way. Let us forever be willing to be laid bare before Christ, to be fearlessly vulnerable, to love freely and without expectation. Let us forever prostrate ourselves before Christ, who is the sun and moon of our world, the center star of our existence. Let us forever seek out the Christ who abides in each of us and say to another human being, “You are holy to me; you are beloved and precious beyond measure.” Let us forever be willing to adore Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament and in the Most Holy Hearts of each other. Let us forever be willing to adore.

Yours in Christ,

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