

to receive thee, O Lord, as many saints and devout persons have desired thee, when they received thy sacrament, who were most pleasing unto thee in holiness of life, and most fervent in devotion. O my God, my everlasting Love, my whole Good, my never-ending Happiness, I would gladly receive thee with the most vehement desire, and most worthy reverence that any of the saints ever had or could feel.

2. And although I be unworthy to have all those feelings of devotion, yet I offer unto thee the whole affection of my heart, as if I alone had all those inflamed desires. Yea, and whatsoever an holy mind can conceive and desire; all this, with the greatest reverence, and most inward affection, I offer and present unto thee. I desire to reserve nothing to myself, but freely and most willingly to sacrifice myself and all mine unto thee.

My Lord God, my Creator and my Redeemer, I desire to receive thee this day, with such affection, reverence, praise, and honour, with such gratitude, worthiness, and love, with such faith, hope, and purity, as thy holy mother received and desired thee, when she humbly and devoutly answered the angel, who declared unto her the mystery of thy incarnation,—“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done unto me according to thy word.”

3. And as thy blessed forerunner, John the Baptist, leaped for joy, by reason of the Holy Ghost, while he was shut up in his mother's womb; and afterwards, seeing Jesus walking among men, humbling himself deeply, said with devout affection, “The friend of the bridegroom, that standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth with joy for the voice of the