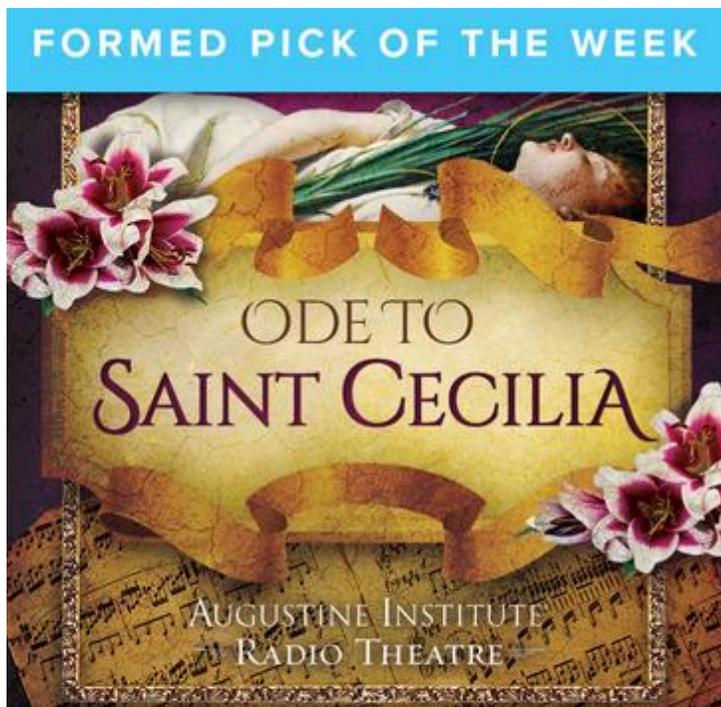


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★★★★★ (36 ratings)

Ode to Saint Cecilia tells the dramatic story of a modest young woman from Rome whose life was transcended time to influence poets, composers, sculptors, and painters. A patron saint to some, a muse to others, Cecilia has inspired George F. Handel, John Dryden, Henry Purcell, Stefan Maderno, John Waterhouse, Paul Simon, and scores of other artists over the past 20 centuries.

Augustine Institute Radio Theatre's *Ode to Saint Cecilia* includes cinematic sound, original music, and the award-winning talents of highly-acclaimed British actors, including: Hayley Atwell, Sir Derek Jacobi, Brian Blessed, Dame Siân Phillips.

Set against the backdrop of the great sacrifice of her martyrdom, *Ode to Saint Cecilia* is ultimately a celebration of the important role of the arts in showing us the love of God through profound beauty.

A Prodigal God

If we look back on our lives and are truly honest, we have to admit that of all the invitations that God has sent us, we've probably accepted and acted on only a fraction of them. There have been countless times we've turned away from an invitation. For every invitation to maturity we've accepted, we've probably turned down a hundred. But that's the beauty and wonder of God's richness. God is not a petty creator and creation, itself, is not a cheap machine with barely enough energy and resources to keep it going. God and nature are prodigal. That's plain everywhere. Millions and millions of life-giving seeds blow everywhere in the world and we need only to pick up a few to become capable of newness, maturity, and of producing life. Sr. Margaret Halaska once captured this wonderfully in a poem she entitled, *Covenant*. — *Source: Ron Rolheiser*

Covenant

The Father knocks at my door, seeking a home for his son:
Rent is cheap, I say
I don't want to rent. I want to buy, says God.
I'm not sure I want to sell,
but you might come in to look around.
I think I will, says God.
I might let you have a room or two.
I like it, says God. I'll take the two.
You might decide to give me more some day.
I can wait, says God.
I'd like to give you more,
but it's a bit difficult. I need some space for me.
I know, says God, but I'll wait. I like what I see.
Hm, maybe I can let you have another room.
I really don't need that much.
Thanks, says God, I'll take it. I like what I see.
I'd like to give you the whole house, but I'm not sure –
Think on it, says God. I wouldn't put you out.
Your house would be mine and my son would live in it.
You'd have more space than you'd ever had before.
I don't understand at all.
I know, says God, but I can't tell you about that.
You'll have to discover it for yourself.
That can only happen if you let him have the whole house.
A bit risky, I say.
Yes, says God, but try me.
I'm not sure – I'll let you know.
I can wait, says God. I like what I see.

Happy are the meek?

We live in a world that promotes narcissism, domination and entitlement. If any entity in existence had the right to be narcissistic, dominating or entitled it would be God, but when he came in the incarnation of Jesus, he was none of these, rather he came in meekness and humbleness.

Most of our unhappiness is tied to the belief that we are better and more deserving than the next person and when we don't get the good fortune we feel we are entitled to, we are unhappy. The truth is we are all children of God, loved by God.

To be meek or humble means to understand I am no better or worse than anyone else. That we are all sinners in need of mercy and salvation, and that is exactly what God offers every one of us, nothing more and nothing less. Everything else in this world can distract us from that fact or help us reach unity with our God.

Do I see myself as more worthy of the good things in life than others? Do I see the ups and downs of life as paths to deepening my unity with God? — *Source: Chris LaMothe, JesuitPrayer.org*

Prayer

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being honored, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being praised, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being preferred to others, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being consulted, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being humiliated, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being despised, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being forgotten, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being ridiculed, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being wronged, Deliver me, Jesus.
That others may be loved more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be esteemed more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be praised and I unnoticed, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it. — *Source: Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val, JesuitPrayer.org*