

LITURGY OF THE KINGDOM

Union with God

FIRST READING

Reader: *A reading taken from the spiritual heritage of humanity.*
Assembly: *From all time, Heaven has prepared the coming of the Kingdom.*
Reader: *Today, a text from Mansur Al-Hallaj*,
A Muslim mystic and preacher from the 10th century.*

*Misunderstood by those around him,
he was judged and condemned by the authorities;
he was scourged and finally crucified.
As he died, he asked God to forgive his executioners.*

It is written:



He who masters his soul through acts of obedience and abstains from giving free rein to pleasures and passions, elevates himself to the rank of “Very Close” to God. Thus, he does not cease to purify himself and he goes through the stages of purification until he has been detached from his human nature. When nothing of the human remains in him, then the Spirit of God is infused in him, that Spirit which had been infused in Jesus, the Son of Mary. Thus, he wants nothing else but what God has willed, and his actions are the actions of the Most High God.

Reader: *This was a text from Mansur Al-Hallaj, a Muslim mystic and preacher.*
Assembly: *Thanks be to God.*

* The passage quoted comes from Marijan Molé, *Les Mystiques musulmans*, Paris, Les Deux Océans, 1982, p. 69, with the author himself having quoted, Mansur al-Bagdadi, *Farq bain al-firaq*, Le Caire, 1367/1948, p 148.