

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains

but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Children, let us love not in word or speech
But in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
And reassure our hearts before him
In whatever our hearts condemn,
For God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
We have confidence in God
And receive from him whatever we ask,
Because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:
We should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
And love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
And the way we know that he remains in us
Is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved, let us love one another,

Because love is of God;

Everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:

God sent his only-begotten Son into the world

So that we might have life through him.

In this is love:

Not that we have loved God, but that he loved us

And sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,

We also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God.

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,

And his love is brought to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved, let us love one another,

For love is of God,

And he who loves is born of God and knows God.

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us,

That God sent his only Son into the world,

So that we might live through him.

In this is love,

Not that we loved God, but that He loved us

And sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,

We also ought to love one another.

No man has ever seen God;

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us

And His love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us,

Because He has given us of His own Spirit.

And we have seen and testify

that the Father has sent His Son as the Savior of the world.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,

God abides in him,

And He is God

So we know and believe the love God has for us.

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God,

And God abides in him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,

bearing with one another and forgiving one another,

if one has a grievance against another;

as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love,

that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,

the peace into which you were also called in one Body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,

as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,

singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,

do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,

For through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,

And of the ill-treated as of yourselves,

For you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all

And the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money

But be content with what you have,

For he has said, *I will never forsake you or abandon you.*

Thus we may say with confidence”

The Lord is my helper,

And I will not be afraid.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians:

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is loyal, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
Serve the lord.

Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.

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Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you,
bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another;
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;
do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil;
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The Word of the Lord.

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The Word of the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 15:1b-3a,5-7,13

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and Sisters,

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up.

For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then as Christ welcomed you, For the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.