



focus on sunday

The commandment of God is to love him and love people: both are so interlinked that in loving people we love God.

You shall
LOVE
the LORD your GOD
with all your

HEART
SOUL
MIND
STRENGTH



Many people asked Jesus about how they could enter the kingdom of God. Or they asked what is the greatest of the commandments. In Judaism, a religion that prided itself often on the observance of many rules and regulations this was quite a loaded question. The answer Jesus gave is the reason for all his teaching: 'love God and your neighbour'. This is simple to say and is a lifetime's joy. Love of those near and far is what can bring greatest joy to our lives.

Love is in the ordinary. We visit someone in hospital, we oblige others, we go without so that we can help someone worse off than ourselves. It is in giving time to people – not just Facebook time but real presence. Trying to live in peace with others.

A lot of life calls the best out of us. We fail sometimes, other times we succeed. Love gives a lot in ordinary family life. Parents and grandparents give us an example of steadfast love, the word used in the Bible for the love of God. From God's love for us we can reach out to others, knowing we are loved so much. The love of God and love of the neighbour are the one love.

We know then we are not far from the kingdom God, the kingdom where love is the foundation of all that we do. To spread this love is the heartfelt desire and mission of Jesus.

Give me the grace Lord of knowing your love for me and reach out in love this as best I can.

Donal Neary SJ. (editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 17:2-4, 47, 51

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **[R]**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **[R]**

SECOND READING Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

PENITENTIAL RITE

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us....
Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glorify God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 6: 2 - 6

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.