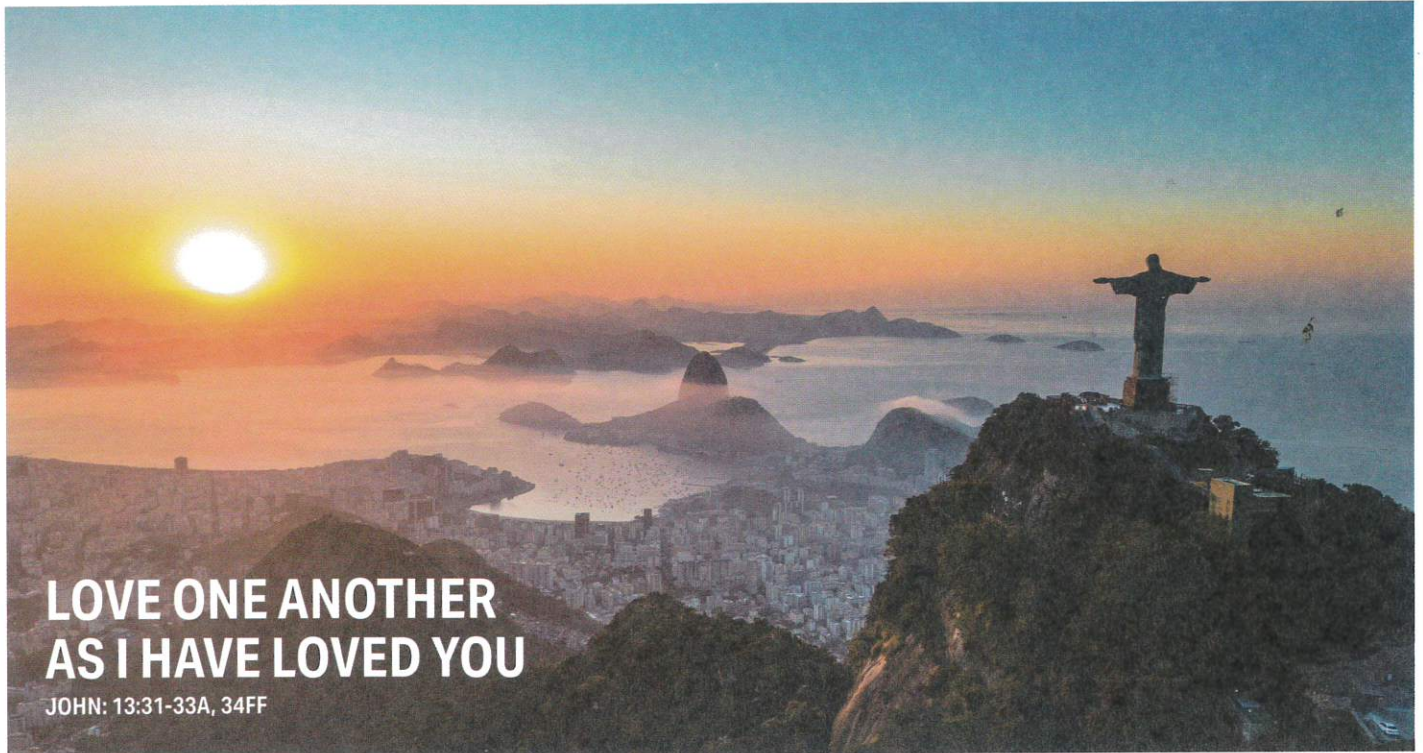


Sunday Message

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • 18th May 2025 • Psalter Week 1



LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

JOHN: 13:31-33A, 34FF

Today's Gospel begins with the call of the disciples where the master addresses his pupils. There is a certain warmth or tenderness to this scene as Jesus tells them he is leaving a new commandment, one which he wants lived out through their actions after his death.

He speaks of love and extends this love to all people, without distinction. He has already shown this message in his story of the Good Samaritan. The kind of love Jesus talks about is a love for all. Secondly, this commandment is new in the ideal it strives for. Our love should be as he has loved us. This means we must love our enemies, without limits. ■

REFLECT

An American journalist, after watching Mother Teresa caring for a man with gangrene, remarked to her: 'I wouldn't do that for a million dollars.' Mother Teresa replied: 'Neither would I... but I do it for love of God.' Selfishness keeps us shut in, builds barriers, even walls, between us and others. What frees us is caring, caring for others, being friends, being sisters and brothers to them, being good neighbours. A doctor, who has shared some of the deepest moments in the lives of many patients, says that people facing death don't think about the degrees they've earned, the positions they've held, or how much wealth they've amassed. What really matters at the end is whom you have loved and who has loved you.

Love asks the best from us and brings out the best in us. Being loved gives us a surprising energy and courage. Love makes us fruitful, productive, strong and constant in doing good. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, famous for her work on the stages of dying, has written: 'Love is the flame that warms our soul, energises our spirit and supplies passion to our lives. It's our connection to God and to one another.'

Practicing love has the power to heal ourselves and others. To love is to heal, both those who receive and those who give it. To decide to love is to be fully open to life. It is choice and not just feeling. When we choose to be loving, caring, healing, helping, and forgiving persons, we grow towards what our life is meant to be. There's really no other way. So Jesus insists, very strongly: 'Love one another, as I have loved you.' ■

LEARN

'For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.'

(St. Therese of Lisieux)

SAY

'Whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.'
(Mark's Gospel)

DO

If you're a little out of practice in your prayer life, how about taking as little as 10 minutes a day to begin a conversation with God. If you are short on words, read from today's Gospel from John.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 14:21b-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 145(144):8-9. 10-11. 12-13b. R.cf. 1

R: I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

Or **Alleluia.**

1. The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**
2. All your works shall thank you, O LORD,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds. **R.**
3. To make known your might to the whole human race,
and the glorious splendour of your reign.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule endures for all generations. **R.**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-5a

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'

And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 13:34

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 13:31-33a. 34-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.