

God's Word for St. Valentine's Day



Dear Reader, in this extraordinary year we are fortunate enough to have St. Valentine's Day fall on a Sunday. The Readings chosen for this week step out of the recommended liturgy and are based on love. From the words of the Prophet Isaiah concerning God's steadfast love and protection, through those immortal words of 1 Corinthians 13, we move to two of the most significant quotes from Christ himself on which is based 'all the law of the Prophets'. This Sunday we have a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on the many faces of love we are shown and can show in the world today.

The Collect for the Sunday before Lent

O God, our teacher and our judge:
Enrich our hearts with the goodness of your wisdom
and renew us from within:
that all our actions, all our thoughts and all our words
may bear the fruit of your transforming grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 54:10-14

¹⁰ Though the mountains be shaken
and the hills be removed,
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken
nor my covenant of peace be removed,"
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
¹¹ "Afflicted city, lashed by storms and not
comforted,
I will rebuild you with stones of turquoise,^[a]
your foundations with lapis lazuli.

¹² I will make your battlements of rubies,
your gates of sparkling jewels,
and all your walls of precious stones.
¹³ All your children will be taught by the Lord,
and great will be their peace.
¹⁴ In righteousness you will be established:
Tyranny will be far from you;
you will have nothing to fear.
Terror will be far removed;
It will not come near you.

Quotes on Love from the New Testament

What did Jesus say about Love?



'The first commandment is this, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.' *Matt 22: 37*



'As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

A Prayer for Resting in God's Love

God of Goodness, I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty and yet overwhelmed by your love for me. I thank you that there is no human experience that I might walk through where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest mountain you are there and yet if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life, you are there. Teach me today to love you more. Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the simple trusting heart of a child.

- Author Unknown

Your Love

Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all!
Give me knowledge; O giver of Knowledge,
That I may be one with you.
O Compassionate One, grant compassion unto us;
That we may help all fellow souls in need!
Bless us with your Love O God.
Bless us with your Love.

- Author Unknown