Readings for Christian Care Sunday, 2021

# The First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

# Love the Lord your God

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as along as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.

Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

# Psalm 86

Hear me Lord, and answer me,
    For I am poor and needy.
Guard my life, for I am faithful to you,
    Save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
    For I call to you all day long.
Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
    For I put my trust in you.

**You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

You, Lord, are forgiving and good
    abounding in love to all who call to you.
Hear my prayer, Lord
    listen to my cry for mercy
When I am in distress, I call to you,
    because you answer me.

**You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

Teach me your way, Lord
    that I may rely on your faithfulness;
Give me an undivided heart,
    that I may fear your name.
I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
    I will glorify your name forever.
    For great is your love toward me.

**You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

# The Second Reading: 1 John 3: 16-24

# Let us love with actions and truth

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. This is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

# The Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

# The parable of the Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

‘What is written in the Law?’ he replied. ‘How do you read it?’

He answered, ‘“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”, and “Love your neighbour as yourself.”’

‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live.’

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’

In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the inn keeper. “Look after him,” he said, “and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”

‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’

The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’

Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

*This is the gospel of the Lord*

**Praise be to you, O Christ**