

.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.
And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy
Spirit.

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

THE SECOND READING IS 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.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

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

THE REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Love is many different things. **Eros** love is the desire to be together, the love of God is to want to be with him in his Kingdom. The beauty of the second reading is the newly created world he is creating for us. It is realistic to want to live in a better world than we have here and a call to make this world better. This can be above all other things at a decisive moment in one's life.

A couple wanting to be together and absorbed in each other can be an exclusive love and very important to establish a stability they need in marriage.

(**Philia**)Real friendships last;. Friendship is a shared way of looking at the world with a mutual respect and sense of humour. A friendship with God moulds us to be like God to share the value and goodness in the other.

(**Sorge**) care or affection can be for a time even if remembered fondly. I think we have had over 20 old dogs, each cared for in their needs and missed when they pass on. School college, people at work can be a pleasant time or not, sometimes soon forgotten but connecting us at the time.

(Agape)Christian love is different from human sensations because it is a giving love. To show interest, to remember good things is to love and honour a person

them for themselves; To remember interesting things to share together means you give the gift of time. Giving respect may mean leaving someone be themselves for a time- not needing you.

Gospel values are very similar to humanist values but to love as Jesus loved is the most jolting Gospel message separating us from non-Christians. The unselfish love Jesus showed is mirrored in the lives of true believers.