

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## LOVE WITH THE LOVE OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RESURRECTED CHRIST



My brothers and sisters, the readings for this Sunday can be summed up in one word: **“LOVE”**. This is a commandment we find throughout the Bible. But the book of Acts of the Apostles (1st reading) reminds us that this is not a given, even among Christians. The expansion of the Gospel was to result initially in the gathering of the twelve tribes of Israel.

But the Holy Spirit shatters this barrier. Peter must integrate a converted pagan into the community of believers. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone, even for those who are very far away.** This is very important for us who always tend to judge those who are not on our side. There are contemptuous and hurtful words that are an obstacle to the proclamation of the Gospel. We forget that these people have first place in God's heart. They are his most precious possession. By rejecting them, we sin against God.

The letter of Saint John (2nd reading) strongly emphasizes the great commandment of love: **“My beloved, let us love one another since love comes from God”**. It is important for us to hear this call, especially when we are faced with the divisions and disputes that poison Christian life. The love of a brother is rooted in the love with which God loves us. We must say it again and again: **God loved us, He loved the world so that we might live the Divine Life.** He offered Himself as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. He expects from us a response that is commensurate with His love for us.

The Gospel reminds us of the words of Jesus at the joy of Maundy Thursday: **“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Stay in my love.”** These words are the testament He left us the day before His death. They are addressed to the Apostles but also to each of us today. These are His last wishes. They reveal to us what is deepest in Him, what He entrusts us to realize.

It is up to us to draw all the consequences in our families, our villages, our neighborhoods. **When a Christian goes to visit a sick person or a prisoner, it is always in the name of this Love which is in God.** It is the same when we share with the poorest, those who have lost everything. **It is always a response to Jesus who commands us to love one another. Loving makes us like God.**

**Lord, you who are Love, we pray to You for each other and for our world. Gather us all together in the Peace of Your Love. Amen**

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