

Leader Readings

Call to worship

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 p. 837

L- I love the Lord, who has heard
My voice and my supplications,
And has inclined his ear to me
Whenever I called.

**P-The snares of death encompass me;
The pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.**

L-Then I called on the name of the Lord:

P-“O Lord, I beseech you, save my life!”

L-What shall I return to the Lord
For all my benefits?

**P-I will lift up the cup of salvation
And call on the name of the Lord,**

L-I will pay my vows to the Lord
In the presence of all his people.

**P-Precious in the sight of the Lord
Is the death of his faithful ones.**

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L-O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.
You have loosed my bonds.

**P-I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
And call on the name of the Lord.**

L-I will pay my vows to the Lord,
In the presence of all his people,

**P-in the courts of the house of the Lord,
In your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!**

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your presence today, we humbly come before You with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. We thank You for the gift of love that binds us together as a community of faith and fills our souls with Your divine grace. May Your love illuminate our minds and hearts as we delve into the depths of Your Word and reflect on the power of love. Guide us, O Lord, in this sacred time of worship, that we may be transformed by Your love and inspired to walk in the footsteps of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 13 p. 1049

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant

⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;

¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

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¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

John 3:16-21 p. 970

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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