



And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

Hail to the Christ who lifts love high for all the world to see – from generation to generation, you are God for us;

now we would praise and worship you!

Hail to the Christ who embeds love through his life and death and resurrection at the heart of creation itself;

now we would praise and worship you!

Hail to the Christ who makes the earth a sacred ground where all is precious, friend and stranger, creature and tree.

now we would praise and worship you!

He is the One at the beginning yet above and beyond all time

now we would praise and worship you!

We praise you the Christ among us with our faithful discipleship; discipleship that is only possible because of Jesus' faithfulness to you, O God and the wonder of your love known through him and the Holy Spirit.

Be with us now we pray. Amen

Hymn 534

*Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with friends, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again
love, only love is his way.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

*Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
love only love is his mark.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

*Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is my body, this is my blood',
love, only love is his sign.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

*Love is his sign, love is his news,
'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my life's blood'.
Love, only love is his news.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

*Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
sisters and brothers, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

*Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another, I have loved you'.
Love, only love, is his law.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

*Love is his law, love is his word: love of the Lord,
Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one.
Love, only love is his word.*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

Confession and Assurance

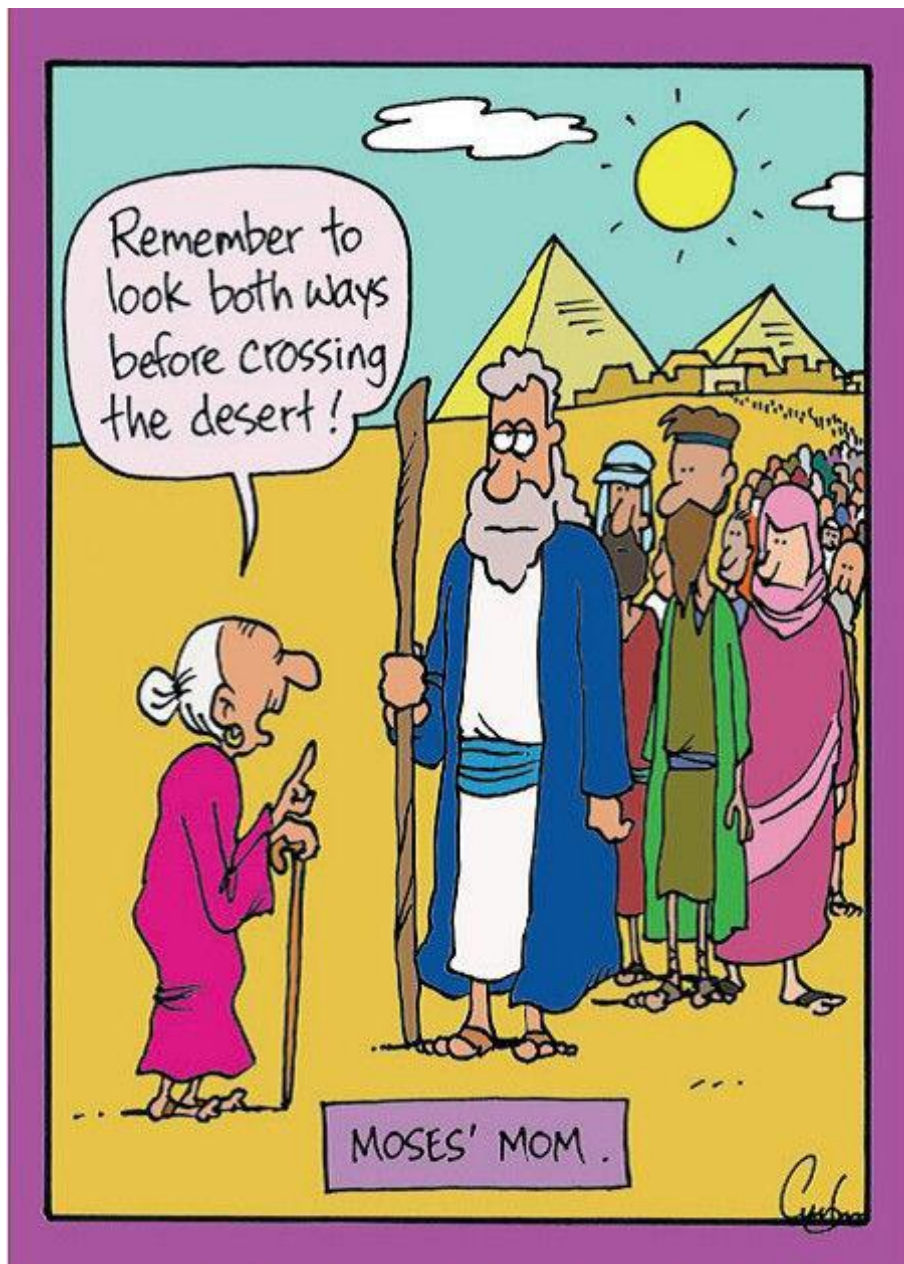
O God, we acknowledge that it is often easier to love you than our neighbour. In our worship we make our solemn prayers and sing our hymns of praise and this can be more comfortable to us than attending to the needs of others, especially those whom we don't like very much or who seem to be different from us and our kindred. ***Open our minds to your truth, O God. Forgive us when we deceive ourselves. Bring to us your grace, O Christ our risen Lord.***

Forgive us when we look away from the suffering of others and close our ears to the weeping of the world, concentrating on our own smaller concerns where life seems more manageable. Forgive us when we push away those who ask tough questions of us, preferring the safe havens of simplistic faith and piety.

Open our minds to your truth, O God. Forgive us when we deceive ourselves. Bring to us your grace, O Christ our risen Lord. And lead us back to our neighbours in love and compassion.

Yes. The arms of the Christ among us are stretched out to embrace us and to gather in all those who come in hope into your love's eternal embrace. We are moved and changed by the stories of the life and words and total commitment of Jesus. We thank you for the confronting invitation to us in the gospel to make the life of love a reality.

So may we travel on in every moment of our lives embracing the new possibilities of love always ahead of us as your resurrection people. Amen



Lectionary Lord, may your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory

Hebrew Scripture Deut. 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar, And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

In this is the word of the Lord

Reflection Thus concludes the Mosaic saga in Israel's journey with its God as they are led on to its faraway conclusion and fulfilment in the life, death and resurrection of the Christ of our faith.

Hymn 456 *Your hand, O God, has guided
your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
your people owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one church, one faith, one Lord.*

*Your heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least; they bade them rise,
and hasten to the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one church, one faith, one Lord.*

*Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one church, one faith, one Lord.*

*Your mercy will not fail us,
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then by all creation,
your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one church, one faith, one Lord.*

Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. In these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David". He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

" 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'?

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection In his exchanges with the religious leaders of his day Jesus always pushed for answers that demanded something concrete from his hearers. He would not let them get away with mere pious cant and evasion of the demands of authentic belief and practice. The following cartoon highlights how our style of living can so easily leave us living life in artificial ways, without commitment to life's real demands and opportunities. The intricacies of the interpretation of Hebrew Law could very easily lead to a life without substance. But the focus on love of God and one's fellow man brings us into a dimension of living that embraces the whole of life that Jesus saw as humanity's destiny and purpose. This is resurrection life, **life in all its fulness**, John 10:10 as the Johannine Christ was to affirm.

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. This is the central gospel promise which transcends all legalism and the doctrinal perfectionism that evades the call, first and last, to live the life of love without reservation.

The Last Judgement



Prayers for Ourselves and Others and Lord's Prayer

God of endless love, show to us the face of our neighbour.

Show us that face in the depths of its need that we may see the unshed tears and truly know and feel the unspoken worries; and do not let our own fears and uncertainties destroy our capacity for genuine love and compassion for others in need and despair.

Hold us firm in the struggle for equity to overcome the injustices that are of our making and consequent on our life advantages and failures in compassion and love.

Make us those whose lives shine for the world in all its need and may the courage and risk of the life of love be known as your gift of life in all its fulness flowing through us as the Christ lives on in the world and the truth of resurrection is affirmed over the power of death and destruction.

In the confidence of our faith we pray as Jesus taught us

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen***

Hymn 417

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit
you have chosen me to be –
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.*

*Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.*

*Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.*

*Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.*

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit
you have chosen me to be –
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.*

Go now into the world as those who love God and neighbour as ourselves.

Benediction

May we see the face of God in those we meet,
may we touch the life of Christ the risen One among us in
unexpected moments
and reach for the life of the Spirit
as we live out each and every day.

Reverend Graeme Kerr

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.***

CHRIST the Light of the World

