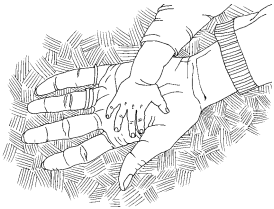


THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'Love – that most excellent gift'



Today's Collect speaks of love as 'that most excellent gift' from God. It was revealed supremely in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is experienced today through the Holy Spirit who guides and gifts Christ's followers. It is shown in those who love and serve their neighbour. It will be fully known when, at the end of our journey, we enter the eternal and perfect love of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Gathering

THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.** (1 Tim. 1:2)

(A HYMN may be sung)

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
And God abides in them.

We love
because he first loved us. (1 John 4:16, 19)

PRAYER

Lord, you are the living flame,
burning ceaselessly with love for mankind.
Enter into us and inflame us with your love
so that we might be like you. **Amen.**
(J. H. Newman)

(SONGS may be sung)

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PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Let us examine our lives in the light of St Paul's teaching about the nature of love:

'Love is patient ... love is kind ...
is not envious ... or boastful ...
or arrogant ... or rude ...
does not insist on its own way ...
is not irritable ... or resentful
and does not rejoice in wrongdoing ...'
(1 Cor. 13:4-6)

Acknowledging that our attitudes and
behaviour often fall short of these standards,
we confess our sins to God:

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our
whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**
Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on us
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or
RESPONSES may be used)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings
without love are worth nothing: send your
Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace
and of all virtues, without which whoever
lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son
Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM/HYMN or SCRIPTURAL SONG

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the reading)
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**
(from Eph. 3)

(A HYMN may be sung)

The Prayers

INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

God our Father, we pray for your blessing on
all people:

Bless our Queen and those who take
authority in this and other nations ...
May they govern with wisdom and integrity,
and bring justice and peace to the world.
Father of all, **in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who lead the Church ...
May they be firm in faith, clear in vision,
yet humble in your service:
Father of all, **in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who teach, in schools, colleges
and universities ...
May their skills help the young to achieve
their best:
Father of all, **in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who suffer from ill-health or
pain, loneliness or loss ...
Deliver them from their distress and grant
them healing, patience and peace ...
Father of all, **in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who care for the sick and frail ...
May they bring strength and encouragement

to others, and know your grace for
themselves.
Father of all, **in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who go out to work each day ...
May they use their gifts for the common
good, and bear witness to Christ in the
service they render:
Father of all, **in your mercy hear us.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who
have died ...
Father of all, **grant us with them,
and all the saints, a share in your eternal
Kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your
most gracious favour, and guide us with your
continual help, that in all our works begun,
continued and ended in you, we may glorify
your holy name, and finally by your mercy
receive everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(Collect from Common Worship)

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)