

Lent: Love and Suffering

Call to Prayer – Leader: As we center ourselves, let’s reflect a moment on this advice from St. Vincent: *“Discontented poor persons are accustomed to make [complaints]. ... try nevertheless to comfort them and do [your] best to satisfy them, showing compassion for their sufferings and regret at not being able to help them as they wish ...”*

Coste, 13b, #149a, page 152

See in them the suffering Jesus.

Leader: O God, come to our assistance

ALL: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.



Hymn: “We Are Many Parts” Marty Haugen verses 1, 3

“THERE IS NO LOVE WITHOUT SUFFERING.”
ARIELLE DOMBASLE

Refrain

We are man-y parts, we are all one bod-y, and the
 gifts we have we are giv-en to share. May the Spir-it of love
 make us one in - deed; one, the love that we share, one, our
 hope in de-spair, one, the cross that we bear.

Verses

1. God of all,	we look to you,	we would be your
2. So my pain	is pain for you,	in your joy is
3. All you seek-ers	great and small,	seek the great-est

to Refrain

1. ser-vants true,	let us be your love to	all the world.
2. my joy, too;	all is brought to - geth - er	in the Lord.
3. gift of all;	if you love, then you will know the	Lord.

Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 12, 13. Text and music © 1980, 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Reading: “I do not think that the fundamental message of the cross is suffering. Christ does not suffer because suffering is in itself a value, but because love without restraint requires suffering. If the fundamental message of the cross is not suffering, but an absolute and communicative love, then the cross ... reminds us that Christianity is not a choice of suffering ..., but the choice of a new type of love.”

Anthony Padovano, *Who is Christ?*

Prayer Response: (Please, alternate sides as indicated.)

I. Holy One, shock and save us with the terrible goodness, with the incredible love of Jesus.

II. Drive us deep into a longing for your reign, until we seek it first, not for ourselves, but for your hungry, sick and impoverished children.

- I. In our seeking first your reign for them, all will be ours as well,
- II. things like a coat and courage and comfort, lilies in the field, birds soaring on the wind, a song in the night and gladness in the heart
- I. and the sense of your presence, the realization of your promise that nothing in life or death will be able to separate us
- II. from your unconditional love in the crucified one who is Jesus and in whose name and Spirit we pray. (adapted from Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*, page 122)

ALL: Amen.

Scripture: "I have come to rate all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ ... [that] I may be in him. ... I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from His resurrection, likewise to know how to share in his sufferings by being formed into the pattern of his death," his love and his life. Philippians 3: 8, 9, 10

Reflection and Sharing:

How does Jesus' acceptance of suffering out of love challenge me?
When have I seen Jesus suffering in those I encounter at home, in service?



Response -- ALL: O God, your love will last forever,
your faithfulness 'til the end of time.
You are a loving God; You are the faithful one.

(adapted from Dan Schutte, "Yahweh, the Faithful One")

Intercessions -- Leader: Let us pray to our God who showed us unconditional love in Jesus,

Response -- ALL: Help us love, O God.

- that we may grow in appreciation of God's incredible love for us during this Lent, we pray ...
- that we may find the love needed to accept our sufferings and those of others, we pray ...
- that we may discover Jesus in our suffering sisters and brothers, we pray ...

(Spontaneous prayers are welcome.)



Prayer -- ALL: O God, let us love you with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows. Let us also love one another and bear with one another as you would wish. We are sent not only to love you, but to make you loved. It is not enough for us to love you if our neighbor does not love you. For you are love and want us to come to you through love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

(adapted from Coste 11:#25, p. 32; 7:#2768, p. 449; 12:#207, p. 215; 1:#49, p. 81)

+++++

Prayer Texts

- Romans 8: 35-38 "... the love of God ... comes to us in Christ Jesus..."
- 1 John 3: 7-10 "God's love was revealed in ... his only Son ..."