

God Loves US First – February

Call to Prayer Leader: "One of the most powerful reasons to induce us to love God is the conviction we enjoy that He loves us." Louise de Marillac

Hymn "I Have Loved You" Michael Joncas

Refrain I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have called you and you are mine.
I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.

1-3 Seek my face, says our God, and long for me

- 1 I will bring you my light and my peace.
- 2 I will bring you my joy and my hope.
- 3 I will bring you my care and my love.

Antiphon ALL: "Letting go of the desire to be perfect lovers and allowing God to love people through us, that is the great spiritual call that is given to you and me."

Henri Nouwen, You Are the Beloved One Spirit quote, 10/13/22

Psalm 143 (Alternate verses.)

Loving God, awaken my heart;
pour your love and blessings through all my being.

Free me from attachments and desire,
that I may become a clear mirror,
reflecting your love to the world.

I recall days gone by; I meditate on all that you have done.
I muse on the covenant of your love.



I open my heart to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
Let me hear your voice within the silence,
for in you, I put my trust.
Teach me ways of loving service,
that I might cooperate with you, O my Beloved.
Glory be ... As it was ...

adapted from Nan C. Merrill Psalms for Praying, pages 297-98



Reading Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you." (John 13:34) The final phrase is the essential one, "as I have loved you." Have you let God love you? Please, don't hurry past that question. We don't love people because people are lovable. People can be cranky, stubborn, selfish and cruel. We love people for this reason; we have come to experience and believe the love God has for us. We tend to skip this step. We clench our teeth and say, "I'm supposed to love my neighbor? All right, by golly, I will," but the source is not within us. It is only by receiving our Father's agape love that we can discover an agape love for others. We cannot love if we aren't first loved so let God love you.

You Can Count on God, Max Lucado 2/14/22

Reflection and Sharing

When have I experienced God's love for me personally?
How did I respond to this experience?

Response Leader: God loves each of us fiercely, whether or not we feel it. Jesus died for us and is calling every one of us to know that we are loved and to share this truth with others.

Messages from Vincent de Paul (Rotate, pause briefly after each quote.)

"Enlightenment from on high is needed to raise us up in order to show us the height and depth, the breadth and the excellence of God's love."
(Coste, Volume 12, page 213)

"We must be afire with love for those with whom we live and with others by the exercise of love."
(Coste, Volume 12, page 215)

"We are sent not only to love God, but to make God loved. It is not enough to love God if our neighbor does not love God."
(Coste, Volume 12, page 215)



Prayer ALL: Loving God, I am humbled every time I think of your unconditional love for me, a love that knows no limits. Help me extend this same love to others, in Jesus, through your Spirit. Amen. adapted from Vincentian Calendar, June 27

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C.