



# EUCHALETTE

23 February 2025

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

## Called to Love as God Does

**T**oday's theme – LOVE – is both attractive and challenging. In a world characterized by aggressiveness and violence, the concept of God-like love may seem unrealistic and incapable of solving the problems of justice, stability, and order. Other solutions may appear to be more "effective." But, in the long run, the real solution can be found only in a love that is patterned after God's love for us, for "God knows best" . . . .

Such a love is the only way to go beyond the present deficiencies and injustices, and build the Kingdom established by Christ. This is the "new order" characterized by authentic solidarity, compassion, forgiveness, and self-giving – all "family names" of the sublime reality we call "LOVE."



### INTRODUCTORY RITES



#### Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

**O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.**

(Ps 13 [12]:6)

#### Greeting

**P** – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**All–Amen!**

**P**–Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

**All–And with your spirit!**

#### Penitential Act

**P** –Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (Pause)

**P** –Lord Jesus, you taught us to love our enemies and do good to them. Lord, have mercy!

**All–Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you taught us to be people of peace and service. Christ, have mercy!

**All–Christ, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you taught us to be compassionate like God our Father. Lord, have mercy!

**All–Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All–Amen!**

#### Gloria

**All**–Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God,

almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

#### Collect (Opening Prayer)

**P** –Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All–Amen!**



**1st Reading** 1 Sm 26:2.7-9.  
12-13.22-23

*Forgiveness of offenses and magnanimity were not common virtues in the ancient world. This beautiful example of David's magnanimity toward his enemy Saul is not only a happy exception, but also something that puts to shame those Christians who seem unable to forgive.*

**R** –A reading from the First Book of Samuel

In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph.

David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head, and Abner and his men sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear. I will not need a second thrust!" But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the Lord's anointed and remain unpunished?" So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the Lord had put them into a deep slumber.

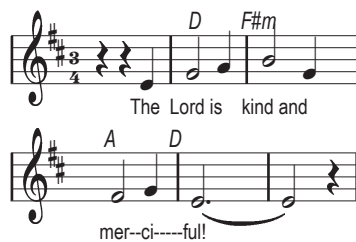
Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the Lord delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the Lord's anointed."

The Word of the Lord!  
**All**—Thanks be to God!

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 103**

**R** —*The Lord is kind and merciful!*

*R. M. Velez*



\* **Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.** **R.**

\* **He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.** **R.**

\* **Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.** **R.**

\* **As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.** **R.**

**2nd Reading** 1 Cor 15:45-49

*As disciples of Jesus, we are expected to live according to his teaching and example. This includes loving even the "unlovable," in a constant effort to rise above our natural inclination to repay evil with evil.*

**R** —A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

**Brothers and sisters:**

It is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being," the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven.

As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is

the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly.

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

The Word of the Lord!  
**All**—Thanks be to God!

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34**

**All**—Alleluia! Alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Lk 6:27-38

*We continue reading from Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain." Today Jesus continues his "inaugural discourse" by proclaiming the climax of his teaching: love of neighbor without boundaries and without conditions.*

**P** —The Lord be with you!

**All**—And with your spirit!

**P** —A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All**—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear, I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount.

But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back;

then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

**Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."**

The Gospel of the Lord!  
**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Homily

#### Profession of Faith

*(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)*

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(bow)\* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*\* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the

resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

#### Prayer of the Faithful

**P** —Challenged by the message of today's First Reading and the Gospel, let us ask the Lord's help to be able to love the way He has taught us. Let our response be:

**All—Lord, teach us to love as You love!**

**C** —For the Pope and all other spiritual leaders: May they constantly proclaim the stern demands of love and forgiveness and be the first to put them into practice. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all Christian leaders, who are called to promote a civilization of love and justice: May they persevere in their effort despite all difficulties and setbacks. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all the victims of violence and injustice: May they find in the example of Christ and in the power of God's grace the strength they need to forgive their oppressors. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all parents and educators: May their readiness to forgive make credible their teaching that we should love even our offenders. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all Filipinos who are working hard to build a better nation: May they learn to reject evil and treasure honesty and love of neighbor. Let us pray! **R.**

**P** —Lord of mercy and forgiveness, strengthen our hearts with Your grace that we may put into practice in our daily life the love we celebrate in this Eucharist. We ask this through Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and loves for ever and ever.

**All—Amen!**



#### Preparation of the Gifts

**P** —Pray, brethren. . .

**All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

#### Prayer over the Offerings

**P** —As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is your due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honor of your majesty may profit us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All—Amen!**

#### Preface III

**P** —The Lord be with you!

**All—And with your spirit!**

**P** —Lift up your hearts!

**All— We lift them up to the Lord!**

**P** —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**All—It is right and just!**

**P** —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

**All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

#### Memorial Acclamation

**P** —The mystery of faith!

**All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!**



**All—Our Father . . .**

**P** —Deliver us, Lord . . .

**All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**



## Sign of Peace

### Breaking of the Bread

*All*—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

### Communion

*P* —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

*All*—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### Communion Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)*

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

### Prayer after Communion

*P* —Grant we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries Through Christ our Lord.

*All*—Amen!

## CONCLUDING RITES



*P* —The Lord be with you.  
*All*—And with your spirit!

*P* —Bow down for the blessing.  
*(Pause)*

—May the Lord grant you a generous heart that you may be able to forgive all offenses done to you.

*All*—Amen!

*P* —May He shower you with His grace so that you may overflow with love for all, even your enemies.

*All*—Amen!

*P* —May He direct your steps to Himself, and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

*All*—Amen!

*P* —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the

Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*All*—Amen!

*P* —Go in peace to love your neighbor as Jesus did.

*All*—Thanks be to God!

# The Impossible Made Possible

*Kalakbay at Katoto*

**T**oday's readings continue to disturb us. Not only are we told to look at things differently, to find happiness in the opposite of wealth, power, prestige, and other legitimate human concerns, but also to consider ourselves blessed when our attachment to Christ leads us to a lifestyle patterned after His own, and are given a series of straightforward teachings that seem extremely difficult to accept, let alone fulfill.

**Let's face it . . . To equate genuine happiness with poverty, hunger, sorrow, and being persecuted for His sake simply flies in the face of logic and our contemporary culture!** This week, we are shaken even more, as we are told to go the way of unconditional love . . . no, not for one's friends, but for one's enemies!

This sounds totally unacceptable, undoable, and practically impossible to fulfill.

Let's be honest. Years of catechetical instruction have taught us to repeat this almost like a mantra, as a pious platitude, a quotable quote that comes in handy as a practical resolution after a week-end retreat. But to be honest, when was the last time you really had warm and cozy feelings for the one who double-crossed you, betrayed you and did evil against you? When was the last time you were tickled pink by the thought of terrorists lurking somewhere around the civilized world, waiting for the next opportunity to blow airplanes out of the sky and level-down buildings? Since when did you feel a rush of excitement up your face at the prospect of meeting face-to-face with someone who has ruined your reputation and has caused other people to think less respectfully of you?

**There is no denying it . . . to love anyone who has made, or still makes, your life difficult seems to be an impossible thing to do.** And it will remain so for as long as we continue to misconstrue the Lord's commandment of love.

I would like to suggest that, whilst the readings do tell us in positive terms what it means to love our enemies, they do not tell us what loving our enemies is not. I would like to suggest further,



WORD AND LIFE  
PUBLICATIONS

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 8894-5401; 8475-8945 • Website: [www.wordandlife.org](http://www.wordandlife.org)

• E-mail: [wordandlifepublications@gmail.com](mailto:wordandlifepublications@gmail.com) • FB: Word And Life Publications

• Editorial Team: Fr. J. Camaya, Fr. C. Dimaranan, Fr. D. Duya, V. David, R. Molomog, D. Daguio

• Illustrations: A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • Circulation: R. Saldua

that our inability to do the former is due to our inability to understand the latter. **According to Biblical data, love IS NOT a warm, cozy, cuddly and sentimental feeling for a person.** Love is neither a natural inclination or attraction towards another. Love is not equated with liking another person. Love is not an emotion as liking something or someone is. Liking is something one cannot control.

Let us look at the Scriptural data. There are at least three important truths. In the first reading, we are given an eloquent example of what love for an enemy is, or ought to be, made possible, not because David liked Saul (the two obviously were mortal enemies), but on account of God who has anointed Saul. He passed off a perfect opportunity to do away with a competitor on account of the God of *“justice and faithfulness.”* *“Today, though the Lord delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the Lord’s anointed,”* said David. The implication seems clear. **No one can love the unlovable unless God enters the picture. One can only love one’s enemies on account of God.**

Secondly, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, St. Paul draws a parallelism between Adam and Christ, the *“earthly one”* and the *“heavenly one,”* respectively. We all are at one and the same time, the earthly, unredeemed Adam and the “heavenly one” like unto Christ. *“Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.”* **On account of Jesus’ resurrection, we Christians really live now on a**

**different plane, with different paradigms and sets of values.**

The third and most important truth comes from today’s Gospel passage from Luke. Here we are told in positive terms what deciding to love means. It has nothing to do with warm feelings. Essentially, it means deciding to act in exactly the opposite way people usually would be expected to behave in the face of certain stimuli. In the face of hatred, one is counseled to do good. In return for curses (bad words), we are told to bless (good words). In exchange for mistreatment, one is exhorted to prayer.

**Today’s readings are a call for us to disabuse the notion of private charity. Love for others, including our enemies, is shown through solidarity and working for the common good.** It is also a reminder that love, far from being a passing feeling, is something we have to positively and passionately engage ourselves in – doing good, blessing, praying.

**This, we can only do on account of the transformative power of the resurrection. Only through the power of the resurrection can we be capable of doing good.** Only on account of the resurrection can we be profligate in forgiveness and in our dedication to the common good and work for solidarity – salvific, not sinful solidarity. Only on account of the power of the living and loving God in Christ His Son, can the impossible be made possible. Only through Jesus. **Only in Jesus. Only because of Jesus. Only Jesus!**

## **BISPERAS SA Veritas846** (Since 2004)

**LISTEN to Bisperas Sa Veritas over Radio Veritas, 846kHz every Saturday, 5:00pm to 6:00pm.**

You may also watch it **LIVE** through **DZRV 846 Facebook Page.**

Please **LIKE** us @**Bisperas Sa Veritas Facebook Page** where you can watch our past programs, get copies of the program’s inspiring opening prayers, and get latest updates on Church’s concerns.



*Bisperas Sa Veritas is brought to you by*  
**Word Media Ministry and Word And Life Publications**

