

A Reading from the New Testament: from 1 John 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ died for us. And we, too, ought to lay down our lives for our siblings. If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbours in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you? My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk—it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. This, then, is how we'll know we belong to the truth; this is how we'll be confident in God's presence, even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before God, and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand—because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight. The commandments are these: that we believe in the name of God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. Those who keep these commandments live in God and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

For records of God's love in the early Christian community

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Listen for words of faith in the Gospel of John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd would die for the sheep.

The hired hand, who is neither shepherd
nor owner of the sheep,
catches sight of the wolf coming
and runs away,
leaving the sheep to be scattered
or snatched by the wolf.

That’s because the hired hand works only for pay
and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd.
I know my sheep
and my sheep know me,
in the same way God knows me
and I know God—
and for these sheep
I will lay down my life.

I have other sheep
that don't belong to this fold—
I must lead them too,
and they will hear my voice.
And then there will be one flock,
one shepherd.

This is why God loves me—
because I lay down my life,
only to take it up again.

No one takes my life from me;
I lay it down freely.
I have the power to lay it down,
and I have the power to take it up again.
This command I received from God."

For the good news of divine love
Thanks be to God.