Introductory sentences

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it; Love your neighbour as yourself." Matthew 22 v 37 – 39

Prayer

Put love into our hearts Lord Jesus – love for you; love for those around us; love for those we find it hard to like.

Bible Reading Romans 8 v 35 – 39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection

Does it not stir your heart to realise how much we are loved by God? Jesus proved this when he died for us. Those of us who live alone, who may not have family and friends close by to demonstrate how much we are loved, especially when Valentines day comes round, maybe there is a wistfulness in us, but God knows and he continually loves us.

Hymn

O love that will not let me go, revive your loveliness in me:
I give you back the life I owe that in your ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

Prayer

Lord of the loving heart, may mine be loving too, Lord of the gentle hands, may mine be gentle too, Lord of the willing feet, may mine be willing too, so may I grow more like you in all I say or do.

Bible Reading Ephesians 3 v 17 – 19

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled with the measure of all the fullness of God.

Reflection

As far as we know St. Valentine was born in Terni, Italy. Reputedly a bishop, he apparently healed many people, but when persecution once again happened in Rome he refused to give up his faith and his love for his Lord.

Consequently, he was executed on 14th

February 270. It was only in the middle- ages that he began to be associated with Romantic love.

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us your humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, though art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts. Amen.



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