



St. Peter Claver (1581-1654) is a Spanish Jesuit missionary who spent his life in the service of African slaves brought against their will to South America during the 17th century. He is the patron saint of slaves and seafarers.

First Reading: (Col 3:12-17) Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ps 150:1-6

R. / Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Gospel: (Lk 6:27-38) Jesus said to his disciples, "I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on

the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For 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? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

REFLECTION

Eros, Philia, Agape are the three Greek words for 'to love'. Agape means that no matter what the other person does to us we will never allow ourselves to desire anything but his highest good. We hear in the Gospel Jesus' commandment to love our enemies. Why should a Christian love his enemy? The reason is that it makes us like God, for that is the way in which God acts. God sends his rain on the just and the unjust. He is kind to the man who brings Him joy and equally kind to the man who grieves His heart. **God's love embraces saint and sinner alike. It is that love that we must copy; we will in truth be the children of God.**