

Scriptures March 19, 2023

1 Corinthians 13 (NRSV)

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly,^[b] but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospel

John 3:1-17 (NRSV)

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ **3** Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’^[b] **4** Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ **5** Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.’^[c] **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You^[d] must be born from above.”^[e] **8** The wind^[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ **9** Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ **10** Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

11 ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you^[g] do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.’^[h] **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.’^[i]

16 ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.’

17 ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’