

## Singing Our Faith 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 29, 2017

The first reading from Exodus uses powerful words to impart social directives. We're called to treat alien people, orphans, and widows with love, compassion, and mercy. (Remember, "orphans and widows" is Old Testament code for the poor and marginalized of society.) This reading also tells us to loan generously, not collecting interest, however, I don't recommend contacting your creditors and reciting passages from Exodus! These directives are summed up in the gospel reading, in which Jesus references the Ten Commandments. The greatest of these commandments is to love God above all, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Our society has watered down the word "love" through casual and incorrect use. Namely, the notion of "tough love" has been widely overlooked. The opening hymn "The Call is Clear and Simple" (below) poetically addresses the challenges of true love; the love that Jesus is reminding us of today. The hymn's namesake points out that the commandments of love seem "clear and simple," but there's much more to that four-letter word that we **love** to use.

In the first stanza, the somewhat strange words "*Be wily as the serpent, though gentle as a dove,*" cautions us against false or empty love. Stanza two is a self-examination. Is my love toward others authentic? Or, am I using my "love" for self-gain? Stanza three, then, warns us to not become victims of others' false love. Stanza four perfectly addresses God as the "wise and holy lover." The final words encourage us to nurture life through charity, which is most appropriate

## **Singing Our Faith**

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 29, 2017**

in this respect life month. No matter if we're fighting abortion, world hunger, or for the people on death row, we're nurturing the precious lives of God's children.

Throughout this text, we're reminded that true love isn't silent or submissive. When someone is abusing us (in a general sense of the word) or taking their life down a dark path, our love for them should be confrontational. We should seek reconciliation and unity at any cost since we are all children of God, meant to live in harmony. This type of love, like parental love, can be exhausting, but it's right in line with God's commandments.

The closing hymn "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace" (also below) echoes many of these themes, but really ties in to the social directions given in the first reading from Exodus. Like Exodus, this text calls us to see each person as our neighbor. It confronts our sins of omission, whether it's choosing to not performing charitable deeds, or standing silent in the face of injustice. It reminds us to recognize that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. With this in mind, this is a hymn of mission, begging for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and sending us out into the world to minister to the poor and marginalized of our society.

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy & Music

**Singing Our Faith**  
**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 29, 2017**

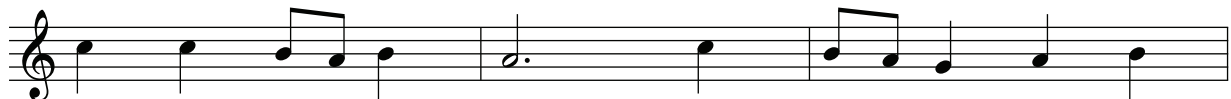
**The Call Is Clear and Simple**



1. The call is clear and simple: “Love God and hu - man -  
 2. God, help us sort our mo - tives, That lov - ing may be  
 3. God, teach us strength and wis - dom When false love takes the  
 4. O wise and ho - ly Lov - er, Teach us as sea - sons



kind,” But love de - mands much wis - dom And  
 whole. High aims or base am - bi - tion? Com -  
 lead. Too well we learn sub - mis - sion And  
 turn To know our - selves and oth - ers— Deep,



clar - i - ty of mind. “Be wi - ly as a  
 pas - sion or con - trol? Then help us clear our  
 si - lence our own need. When oth - ers would mis -  
 hon - est love to learn. So may we nur - ture



ser - pent, Though gen - tle as a dove,” For  
 sched - ules Of ev - 'ry fran - tic task That  
 use us Or lure us t'ward the wrong, God,  
 liv - ing In all we say and do, In



man - y are the dan - gers Up - on the path of love.  
 leads a - way from do - ing The one thing that you ask.  
 tem - per love with cour - age To keep our bound - 'ries strong.  
 strong and gen - tle giv - ing To hu - man - kind and you.

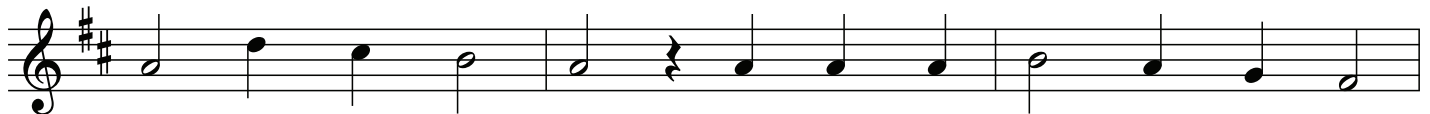
Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

**Singing Our Faith**  
**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 29, 2017**

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



1. Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace To love all  
 2. Break down the walls that would di - vide Your chil - dren,  
 3. For - give me, Lord, where I have erred By love - less  
 4. Give me your cour - age, Lord, to speak When-ev - er  
 5. With your own love may I be filled, And by your



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race, To see each per - son as I  
 Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
 act and thought-less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
 strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self as vic - tim  
 Ho - ly Spir - it willed, That all whose lives are touched by



ought, My kin - dred, whom your love has bought.  
 sue; Let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
 do Will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
 live, Re - mem - b'ring you, may I for - give.  
 mine May know your heal - ing touch di - vine.

Text: Philippians 2:1–18; Olive W. Spannaus, b.1916, © 1969, 1997, Concordia Publishing House  
 Tune: BEATUS VIR, LM; Slovak; harm. by Richard Hillert, 1923–2010