

# Lent—Touching Hearts

**Leader:** O God, ✠ come to my assistance.

**All:** O Lord, make haste to help me.

**Psalm 51:** King David's Prayer for Forgiveness

**Antiphon:** (All) If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.

**L** Be merciful to me, O God,  
because of your constant love.  
Because of your great mercy  
wipe away my sins!  
Wash away all my evil  
and make me clean from my sin!

**R** I recognize my faults;  
I am always conscious of my sins.  
I have sinned against you—only against you—  
and done what you consider evil.

**L** So you are right in judging me;  
you are justified in condemning me.  
I have been evil from the day I was born;  
from the time I was conceived, I have been sinful.

**R** Sincerity and truth are what you require;  
fill my mind with your wisdom.  
Remove my sin, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**L** Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness;  
and though you have crushed me and broken me,  
I will be happy once again.  
Close your eyes to my sins  
and wipe out all my evil.

**R** Create a pure heart in me, O God,  
and put a new and loyal spirit in me.  
Do not banish me from your presence;  
do not take your holy spirit away from me.

**L** Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation  
and make me willing to obey you.  
Then I will teach sinners your commands,  
and they will turn back to you.

**R** Spare my life, O God, and save me,  
and I will gladly proclaim your righteousness.  
Help me to speak, Lord,  
and I will praise you.

**L** You do not want sacrifices,  
or I would offer them;  
you are not pleased with burnt offerings.  
My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God;  
you will not reject a humble and repentant heart.

**Antiphon: (All)** If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.

### **Psalm Prayer**

**Leader:** Gracious God, our Father, when David repented in sackcloth and ashes, you poured out on him the healing medicine of your forgiveness. Help us to follow his example, give us a humble and repentant heart and pardon all our transgressions. We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **Reading: Lent—Touch Hearts Meditation**

We leave fingerprints on whatever our hands touch. On walls, on furniture, on doorknobs, dishes and books, as we touch we leave our identity. Each day we have the wonderful opportunity to leave prints on the hearts of those who are entrusted to our care. If we are to be true companions of St. John Baptist de La Salle, we really have no choice about the entire matter of leaving heart prints. He tells us: “To touch the hearts of your students and to inspire them with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform and one God expects of you.” (Mediation 139.9)

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote in one of her famous poems: “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” We might say: “How can we touch hearts? Show us the ways.” The ways that we leave heart prints can be summed up in the word Love. In his meditations, St. La Salle was very fond of quoting St. Paul. In his First Letter to Corinthians, St. Paul describes love. He writes of a love that touches hearts. How might we describe this love as companions of St. La Salle? We might say: “May we leave heart prints by dealing patiently with others. May we leave heart prints by being kind to others. May we leave heart prints by never being jealous or boastful, or arrogant or rude. In our dealings with others, may we leave heart prints by not insisting on our own way.” When we are not irritable or resentful or rejoice at wrong, but rejoice in the right, we leave heart prints. Compassion, understanding, showing concern, listening and easing another’s anxiety are all ways to touch hearts.

So, in all of our dealings with others, let us leave heart prints. And if someone should say: “I felt your touch,” that might be miracle enough.

(Anonymous)

## **Response**

**Leader:** Create a pure heart in me, O God,  
**All:** and put a new and loyal spirit in me.

## **Intercessions**

**Leader:** Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**All:** and grant us your salvation.  
**Leader:** Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**All:** let your people sing with joy.  
**Leader:** Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**All:** for only in you can we live in safety.  
**Leader:** Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**All:** and guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
**Leader:** Let your way be known upon earth;  
**All:** your saving health among all nations.  
**Leader:** Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**All:** nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
**Leader:** Create in us clean hearts, O God  
**All:** and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.



**Nail Ceremony:** (Option – Participants are presented with nails which they carry around with them during Lent as a reminder of Christ’s act of love and our need to touch hearts)

## **Our Father**

## **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, at first you came among us as the suffering serevant of God. when ou come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, be our peace and our salvation, for you have redeemed us with your precious blood. You live and reign now and forever.

**All:** Amen.

## **Blessing**

**Leader:** May the God of mercy and compassion, through the merits of Jesus, ✠ deliver us from all evil.

**All:** Amen

(Arranged by Brother Louis Welker)