

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART O LORD

We remember Your abiding presence is always with us, O God.
Grant to us a heart renewed.
Recreate in us Your own Spirit, Lord.

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Return to God with all your heart
the source of grace and mercy.
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.
Now the time of grace has come,
the day of salvation.
Come and learn now the way of our God.



I will take your heart of stone
and place a heart within you,
a heart of compassion and love.

If you break the chains of oppression,
if you set the prisoner free;
if you share your bread with the hungry,
give protection to the lost;
give shelter to the homeless,
clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth
like the dawn.

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This is what Yahweh asks of you:
Only to act justly,
To love tenderly,
and to
Walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8)

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When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered, all the nations and He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

Then shall the King say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My father and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me to eat; thirsty and you gave Me to drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in. Naked and you clothed Me. I was sick and you visited Me. In prison and you came to see Me. Then the King shall say unto them: Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of My brothers and sisters, you have done it to Me."

(Matthew 25: 31-45)

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Show us Your mercy Lord;
and grant us Your salvation.
Clothe Your ministers with righteousness,
let Your people sing for joy.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
in You we can live in safety.
Keep us under your care;
guide us in justice and in truth.
Let Your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy be forgotten;
Nor the hope of all to be denied.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us in Your Holy Spirit.

(Book of Common Prayer)



Come back to Me with all your heart.

Don't let fear keep us apart.

Long have I waited for your coming home to Me
and living deeply our new life.

The wilderness will lead you to your heart
where I will speak.

Long have I waited for you coming home to Me
and living deeply our new life.

Integrity and justice,
with tenderness you shall know.

Long have I waited for your coming home to Me
and living deeply our new life.

You shall sleep secure with peace;
faithfulness will be your joy.

Long have I waited for your coming home to Me
and living deeply our new life.

(Gregory Norbert, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont)

Reflection

Do you allow the love of God to rule in your heart? Saint Augustine says that there are two kinds of people because there are two kinds of love. One is holy while the other is selfish. One is subject to God and the other endeavors to equal Him. Jesus came to transform our hearts with the love of God. Do you allow God's love to purify your thoughts, words and actions?

God will judge us not only for the wrong we have done but also for what we have failed to do. Now is the time for God's mercy seeking His help and grace to turn away from sin and walk in the way of His love. Ask the Lord to purify your heart and love as He loves. Do you treat others with mercy and love as God has treated you? Lord, may Your love rule in my heart.

Psalm 27:

Remember Your love and Your faithfulness, O Lord.

Remember Your people and have mercy on us, O Lord.

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation whom shall I fear?

The Lord is my Life and my Refuge, when I call God hears.

If You dwelt, O God, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand?

But with You there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.

O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me.

My heart cries out for Your presence, it is You I seek.

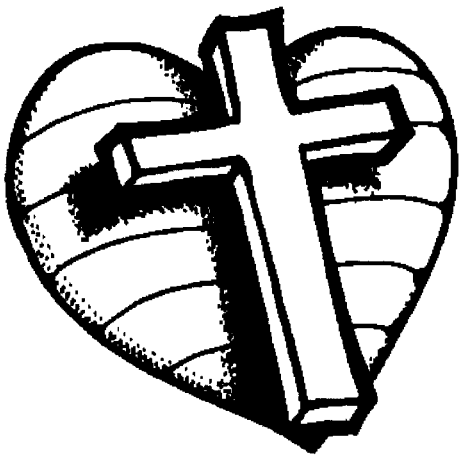
As watchmen who wait upon the daylight, wait for the Lord.

I trust in Your kindness and redemption and Your faithful word.

Before all the mountains were begotten and earth took shape,

even then, O Lord, You were our refuge throughout every age.

(Mike Balhoff, Damean Music, 1978, GIA Publications)



Mighty Lord,
Savior and Friend,
You call us back to You
in these Lenten days.

Change our hearts
from hearts of stone
and give us hearts of flesh
and let them turn to You Lord,
as flowers turn toward the sun.

When we are filled with hatred,
fill us with Your love.

When we are complacent about Your love
and goodness,
incite us to a closer discipleship
with You.

When we are following the wrong path,
direct us onto Your way.

When we are stubborn and close-minded,
open us to the influence
of Your Holy Spirit.

When we are selfish
and think only of ourselves,
give us generous hearts
and willing hands.

When we are angry, fearful
and mistrusting,
show us Your peaceful presence.

Help us, O Lord,
to continually put on
the mind and heart of Jesus
to Whom we dedicate our lives.

Amen.

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Saint John Baptist de La Salle

and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
Help us, the Lord's earthen vessels,
to be a source of His love, peace and joy in our world.
Amen.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!