

## A God's love:

### ❖ Love that lasts forever (Psalm 136).

- Psalm 136 is an antiphonal song. In each of its 26 verses, one part of the chorus praises God and the other part answers: "For his mercy endures forever."
- What does God do driven by his eternal love [mercy]?
  - (1) He has done marvelous works creating everything around us (Ps. 136:1-9)
  - (2) He freed Israel from slavery and established them in the Promised Land (Ps. 136:10-22)
  - (3) Currently, He cares for us, delivers us, and sustains us (Ps. 136:23-26)
- God's love does not affect only those who love Him, for He "gives food to every living thing" (Ps. 136:25). Contemplating that love, the psalmist begins and ends his hymn by inviting us to praise God (Ps. 136:1, 26).

### ❖ Love that transforms (Psalm 51).

- After his sin with Bathsheba, remorse gnawed at David's soul. Now he opened his heart before God and confessed his sin without mitigating or justifying it, aware of his inability to stop sinning (Ps. 51:3-5).
- He knew that, out of his great love, God would cleanse his sin and completely blot out his transgression (Ps. 51:1-2, 7-9).
- But David goes further. Ask for a transformation, the transformation we all need. God can and wants to do that miracle (Ps. 51:10).
- Forgiveness and renewal of our being results in joy, testimony, songs and praise (Ps. 51:12-15). And God delights in receiving our humble praise of love (Ps. 51:16-19).

### ❖ Forgiving love (Psalm 130).

- There are two main themes of Psalm 130:
  - (1) The forgiveness
    - (a) Sin is a deep abyss from which the sinner cries out to God (Ps. 130:1-2). When listening to us, the Lord looks at us and... what does he see?
      - (i) If you fix your eyes on our sin we are finished (Ps. 130:3).
      - (ii) But God's loving eyes are fixed on the repentant sinner, and he grants him forgiveness (Ps. 130:4).
  - (2) The wait
    - (a) This divine attitude generates hope. Therefore, we confidently wait to receive God's forgiveness.
    - (b) We especially wait for the glorious morning in which we hear from his lips: "Enter into the joy of your lord" (Mt 25:21; cf. Ps. 130:5-6).
    - (c) All of God's people participate in this eager wait, when "he will redeem Israel from all their sins" (Ps. 130:7-8).

## B Human response to the love of God:

### ❖ Praise and trust (Psalms 113 and 123).

- What reasons do Psalms 113 and 123 give us to praise and trust in the Lord?
  - (1) Because he is exalted above heaven and earth (Ps. 113:4)
  - (2) Because, although he dwells on high, he humbles himself and comes down to our level (Ps. 113:5-6)
  - (3) Because he lifts up the poor and needy (Ps. 113:7-8)
  - (4) Because he performs mighty miracles (Ps. 113:9)
  - (5) Because he has mercy on us when we are despised (Psalm 123)
- On the Cross we can see, together, all these divine attributes. His great love led Jesus to humble himself "unto death" for us (Phil. 2:8). Is this not worthy of praise? Shall we not fully trust in this powerful and loving Savior?

❖ **Blessing and admiration (Psalm 103).**

- What benefits does the Lord give us?
  - (1) Forgive my iniquities (Ps. 103:3a )
  - (2) Heal my ailments (Ps. 103:3b)
  - (3) Rescue my life from the pit (Ps. 103:4a )
  - (4) He crowns me with favors and love (Ps. 103:4b)
  - (5) It satisfies me with good (Ps. 103:5a )
  - (6) It rejuvenates me (Ps. 103:5b)
  - (7) He does justice when I suffer violence (Ps. 103:6)
  - (8) He makes his plans known to me (Ps. 103:7)
  - (9) He loves me and will not be angry with me (Ps. 103:8-9)
  - (10) He does not repay me according to my sin (Ps. 103:10-11)
  - (11) He does not remember my sins (Ps. 103:12)
  - (12) He knows that I will soon pass away, and he has mercy on me (Ps. 103:13-18)
- In response to these kindnesses, we join the angels in blessing the Lord (Ps. 103:19-22). Praise begins when one recognizes the majesty and works of God and responds in worship to his goodness, mercy, and wisdom.