

Kyrie: Gabriel: LENT PREFACE

[ARGO-153]

'The whole of the law is summarised in a single command: love your neighbour as yourself; serve one another in a spirit of love... Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another: serve one another in a spirit of love. Sin and gifts will be yours; good measure, pressed down and shaken up and running over, will be poured into your lap. You must forgive as the Lord forgave you.' "According to the Christian message, man's relationship to his neighbour is bound up with his relationship to God; his response to the law of God, seeing us through Christ, is shown to be effective in his love and service of men. Christian love of neighbour and justice cannot be separated. For love implies an absolute demand for justice, namely a recognition of the dignity and rights of one's neighbour... Justice attains its inner fullness only in love. Because every man is truly a visible image of the invisible God and a brother of Christ, the Christian finds in every man God himself and God's absolute demand for justice and love." | In one of the O.T. books of law, the word of God says: "You shall not oppress your neighbour or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until morning... you shall do no injustice in judgment: you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbour... you shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbour, lest you bear sin because of him. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

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The Old Testament — and just before that piece, a short paragraph from the 1971 declaration of the Synod of Bishops about the Church's, the Christian's commitment to justice in the world, in love and care and concern for our fellowmen. Some thoughts for the season of Lent, to specify (perhaps) some of the attitudes that this season is intended to sharpen, through the traditional practices of fasting, prayer, almsgiving: practices that have to find new dimensions and meaning in and for the world we live in today. Think over it in your prayers today, and in listening to this prayer in music, a motet for Lent: "Vinea vicia electa" by Poulenc

MUSIC - PRAYERS

And to conclude today, on the same theme but from another century: from a sermon of Pope St Leo the Great

QQ. Brev. Lent 4 Tues