

Reading

1 John 3:18–24

Our love is to be something real and active.

A reading from the first letter of St John.

18 My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
19 only by this can we be certain
that we are children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
20 whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
21 My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
22 and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
23 His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
24 Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.
The word of the Lord.