

# Blessed Peter Donders, Memorial (January 14): Readings

## Opening Prayer

Father, you showed your wonderful  
mercy toward lepers  
through Blessed Peter, your priest.  
By his example and prayers  
may we serve you through our loving  
care  
for those who are in the greatest need.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## First Reading

1 John 3:14-18

A reading from the First Letter of John

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another.

Whoever does not love abides in death.

All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 112

**R: The Lord loves those who give with joy.**

Happy the man who fears the Lord,

who takes delight in all his commands.  
His children shall be powerful on earth;  
the children of the upright are blessed. *(R)*

Riches and wealth are in his house;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
He is light in the darkness for the upright;  
he is generous, merciful and just. *(R)*

The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honor.  
The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever. *(R)*

He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.  
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
he will see the downfall of his foes. *(R)*

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.

His head will be raised in glory. (R)

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another,  
just as I have loved you.

Alleluia! alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according  
to Matthew

At that time, when the Pharisees heard  
that he had silenced the Sadducees, they  
gathered together, and one of them, a  
lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

“Teacher, which commandment in the law  
is the greatest?” He said to him, ““You  
shall love the Lord your God with all your

heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Prayers over the Gifts

God, our Father, accept our gifts  
in this memorial of the infinite love of  
your Son,  
and through the intercession of your  
saints,  
strengthen us in generous dedication to  
you and to our brothers and sisters.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Preface

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,  
We do well always and everywhere to give  
you thanks.

You renew your Church in every age  
through the witness of faith of your saints  
with the creative power of your Spirit,  
and you give us, your children,  
a sure sign of your love.

They inspire us by their heroic lives,

and help us by their constant prayers  
to be the living sign of your saving power,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise you, Lord, with all the angels  
and saints,  
in their song of praise.

### Communion Antiphon

No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
(John 15:13)

### Prayer after Communion

O God, you have made us companions at  
your table,  
Grant that we may imitate the example of  
Blessed Peter Donders,  
who devoted himself to you with his  
whole heart

and gave himself untiringly for the good of  
your people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.