



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
May 2, 2021

*Thought for the Day before Worship*

*God's love for you is so strong that it can never be exhausted.*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**                      *Meditation on "Bread of Life"*                      *(Jack Goode)*

**Introit**

**Tower Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: Come now and see the works of God.

M: **How wonderful are God's deeds!**

L: Come and listen, all you who fear God,

M: **Hear what God has done for me.**

L: Blessed be God, who hears our prayers,

M: **And bids us bear the fruits of the Spirit.**

L: Let us Worship our God!

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of vine and branches, source and power of our life in you;  
we confess we tend to feel more comfortable in the realm of religious  
ideas about you than to be in close relationship with you.**

**We would rather talk about you than walk with you, for we do not  
know where you might lead or what you might require of us.**

**We confess we often get caught up in conjecture or debate concerning your human life, your dying and rising, the meaning in your parables, and the mystery of your promises.**

**We confess our failure to trust and love you, to be open to you, and to be dependent upon a relationship with you, so that we may be followers and co-workers in the up-building of your earthly realm.**

**Forgive us, we pray, in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

P: Hear the Good News! God is love, and God's love was shown to us in the sending of Jesus Christ into the world to bring us life, so that we might be saved. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

M: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Creatorex)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson**

From the Major Prophets: Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The poor<sup>[a]</sup> shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.<sup>[b]</sup>  
<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.  
<sup>29</sup> To him,<sup>[c]</sup> indeed, shall all who sleep in<sup>[d]</sup> the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.<sup>[e]</sup>  
<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,  
<sup>31</sup> and<sup>[f]</sup> proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

**Anthem**

*“Pilgrims’ Hymn”*

*(Stephen Paulus)*

*Even before we call on Your name  
To ask You, O God,  
When we seek for the words to glorify You,  
You hear our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,  
Surpassing all we know.*

*Glory to the father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit.*

*Even with darkness sealing us in,  
We breathe Your name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast,  
We trust in You;  
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,  
Beyond all mortal dream.*

*Both now and forever,  
And unto ages and ages,  
Amen*

## Scripture Lesson

From the Letters to the Church: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love<sup>[a]</sup> because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister<sup>[c]</sup> whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters<sup>[d]</sup> also.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Offertory Invitation

The truth for which Stephen gave his life has been passed on to us as a gift. The Christ, whom Paul proclaimed against fearful odds, has become our Savior because many before us have kept the faith and shared it. The spiritual sacrifices of many have contributed to our legacy of faith. It is our privilege to pass on these gifts through our tithes and offerings, through our giving of self.

## Offertory

*“The Lord’s Prayer”*

*(Lee Dengler)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and  
the glory, for ever and ever, amen.

## Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: John 15:1-8

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples.

**Sermon**     “Piles of Branches” *Which are you?* Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**Celebrating God’s Word in Sacrament**

*Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper. We believe in an OPEN Table.  
ALL persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior  
are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament.*

**\*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (unison)**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Invitation**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**Consecration of the Elements**



# They'll Know We Are Christians 595

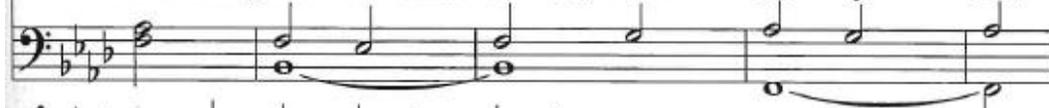
*Unison*



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.



We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.

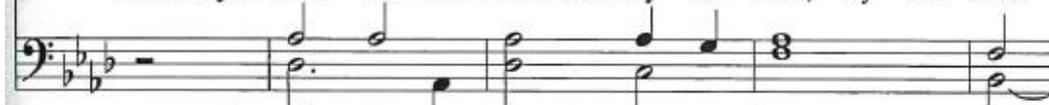


And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.  
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

*Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938- ); para. John 13:35

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