

## **Love each other and show what your God is about!**

Four year old Jenny falls off her bike and runs crying to mom. Mom kisses the bummed-up knee; the crying stops. What made everything “all-right”? Love. Mom’s had a rough day. Just about everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. The head-ache is raging. But the dishes and homework get done without a fight; and when she tells Dad how everything went wrong, he listens, really listens. The headache rages on, but it doesn’t hurt as bad inside. What made the difference? Love.

After months of church shopping the couple finally stopped looking and settled down. What made the difference? A church of people with love. Grandma was lonely, real lonely after Grandpa went home with Jesus, day after day she felt alone and forgotten, but then somebody from church stopped by for a visit and grandma knew she wasn’t alone. What made the difference? Love.

It’s amazing what love can do - it can dry tears; fix knees; heal hearts; it can make strangers feel at home. And something else. Our love can show our goodness; it says: “I think you’re special.” Add Jesus and your love shows God’s goodness and says: “God thinks you’re special.”

*What have you seen and/or experienced love do?*

If love can do such great things, why is love so hard? What gets in the way?

*How would you answer those questions?*

We could talk about schedules running us crazy, stress making us edgy; we could talk about hurts from our childhood, hurts from the divorce that make it hard to love today. But that wouldn't get to the root. At the root, what gets in the way of my love. I do.

Think of Jesus' disciples that first Maundy Thursday. What did they argue about? "Who's going to be greatest?" When Jesus told them that one of them would betray him; what was most important? "What about me?" And when Jesus was arrested, what was most important? Self-preservation. What gets in the way of love? Using words from that first Maundy Thursday - greatness and glory; our greatness and glory.

We can be very protective of our glory and greatness. "What about my rights!" "Nobody tells me what to do." "Nobody gets to hurt me ... or take advantage of me." "I'm not getting involved in their mess." In countless ways we try to protect our greatness and glory.

And it gets in the way of love. We command and demand when we should get off our high horse and listen and encourage. Or when love needs to be tough, we get wishy-washy and hold back on God's commands and judgments. Or instead of reaching out in love, we take the easy way out and instead of being present, disappear. In so many ways, in trying to protect our

greatness and glory, we lose our love. And where would that leave us? Not just loveless, but godless - and that is what hell is.

So what is the answer? Where can we find what it takes to love? And more importantly, how can we be saved from our lovelessness? Jesus shows us the answer - God's greatness and glory. How does God's greatness and glory take care of our love problem? Let's see what Jesus has to say.

Our lesson starts off: **“When [Judas] was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.”** God was about to glorify his son Jesus and show off his greatness. How? With a show of glory like on the Mount of Transfiguration? No. With a miracle show? No. With a voice thundering from heaven? No. God had done all that before. So how would God show off his greatness this time? The answer is in the first words of our lesson – **“When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified.”** It was Maundy Thursday night; Judas had just left. Now Jesus would be betrayed, rejected, put on trial, mocked, beaten, spit on, crucified, killed, crushed and cursed. Not our idea of glory, is it? But it does show God's glory - the greatness of his love - that he was willing to go through all that for you, for me.

So what is God's greatest glory? The glory that God wants you to know more than anything else? The bigness of his heart. We saw the bigness of God's heart when Jesus reached out and touched the untouchable leper. We saw the bigness of his heart

when Jesus ate with the unforgivable “sinners.” We saw the glory of God’s big heart when Jesus, the Son of God, washed his disciples’ stinking feet. But then when Jesus sacrificed himself to pay for our selfish lovelessness so we can have God’s love - there Jesus showed the greatest glory of God’s heart. Today God still shows off that glory - to the loveless he says: “I love you.” To the guilty: “I forgive you.” To the helpless: “Let me take care of it for you.” To the nobodies - “You are a chosen people, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. ... you’re my children, the children of God.” With Jesus, that’s the love God has for you.

So what do we do with that love. Jesus says: **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**

Love one another. How? That word for love isn’t just a feeling word; it’s a doing word, an action word. Love as Jesus has loved you, give without looking to get back; do even though someone sometime may take advantage of you; sacrifice even though it may not be appreciated. Love one another as Jesus has loved you; not because they deserve your love, but because they need your love. Love as Jesus has loved you, not just when it is easy, but even when it hurts. Look how Jesus took action to meet your needs; and love as Jesus has loved you.

So whom do we love? Jesus said, **“Love one another.”** Love God’s family as your own family, as your own brothers and sisters. That’s a whole lot of people to love, isn’t it? So where

do we start? We usually start with the people we like the most, the people we know the best. And that's a good start. But what will that kind of love do? Chances are, it will leave somebody out, feeling ignored, unloved, and hurt. People who are hurting too much to be friendly will keep on hurting. Strangers will keep on being strangers. So love as Jesus has loved you and reach out. Those people here you don't know very well ... they're your brothers and sisters, so reach out and love them like Jesus loves you. Those who don't seem very loveable, even those you just don't get along with ... God loves them, he found a way to get along with them, so reach out and love them like Jesus loves you. Or those people who hurt you ... God has forgiven them, so reach out and love them like Jesus loves you.

How can we do that? The power to love isn't found inside ourselves; some days we look inside our self for love and we don't feel much more than hurt and selfish - not exactly what it takes to love. In the same way, the power or reason to love them isn't found in them; looking at them, instead of seeing a reason to love, we might see their faults, how they hurt us, or maybe just plain nothing - hardly what it takes to love.

So how can we love? Bring Jesus into the picture. When you look to yourself, bring Jesus into the picture - look at how Jesus has met your needs. When you look to that heart God gave you to love, bring Jesus into the picture - look at how Jesus can meet their needs. Look at how Jesus loves you - full and free - and there we find what it takes to love one another.

And tears will be stopped, hearts will be healed, the lonely will feel loved, strangers will feel like they found a family - and best of all, people will see what God is about. Amen.

May 14 & 15, 2022

## DIVINE SERVICE II

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY...** we see so much hurt and hate breaking bodies, hearts, and minds.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** you call us to answer the hurt and hate of the world by showing and sharing your love. Help us make your Church and our congregation to be a refuge of your love!

### OPENING HYMN

*“Son of God, Eternal Savior”*

**Hymn 729**

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,  
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:  
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.

Bind us all as one together in your Church’s sacred fold,  
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.  
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.  
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.  
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,  
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,  
grant, O grant our hope’s fruition: here on earth your will be done.

### INVOCATION

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**I deserve to be cast away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**



## HYMN

### *"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"*

#### Hymn 444 v. 2, 3, & 4

Jesus lives! To him the throne high o'er heav'n and earth is given.  
I shall go where he is gone, live and reign with him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me he died; hence will I, to Jesus living,  
pure in heart and act abide, praise to him and glory giving.  
All I need God will dispense; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well nothing me from him shall sever.  
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be a sure defense; this shall be my confidence.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## READING

### *1 Corinthians 13:1-11*

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 145A sts. 1, 3-4*



\* 1 I will ex - alt my God and King, and I will  
 \* 3 The LORD our God is rich in grace, both ten - der  
 \* 4 All you have made will praise you, LORD; your might - y



ev - er praise your name. I will ex - tol you ev - 'ry  
 and com - pas - sion - ate. His an - ger is most slow to  
 acts your saints will show, till all the peo - ples on the



day and ev - er - more your praise pro - claim.  
 rise; his love and kind - ness are most great.  
 earth the splen - dor of your king - dom know.



You, LORD, are great - ly to be praised; your great-ness  
 The LORD is good in all his ways; his crea-tures  
 E - ter - nal is your king - dom, LORD, for - ev - er



is be - yond all thought. From age to age your peo - ple  
know his con-stant care. To all his works his love ex -  
strong and ev - er sure; while gen - er - a - tions rise and



tell the might - y won - ders you have wrought.  
tends; all crea - tures in his mer - cies share.  
die, your glo - rious reign will still en - dure.

\* Only stanzas 1, 3, and 4 are sung when Psalm 145 is the appointed Psalm of the Day.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*1 John 4:16*

Alleluia. We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.  
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*John 13:31–35*

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"In Unity and Peace"*

Hymn 732

*Refrain*

How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.  
How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, agree in ev'rything you say.  
May there be no divisions among you, but be united in one mind.  
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

*Refrain*

How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.  
How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.

Live a life that is worthy of your call, be humble, gentle, and patient.  
Bear with each other in ways that are loving, preserve the unity of faith.  
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

*Refrain*

How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.  
How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.

Share the love that has joined us as one, unite in spirit and ideals.  
Never be rivals, do not be conceited, but look to others in their need.  
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

*Refrain*

How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.  
How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.

SERMON

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added at the end of the litany.*

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the president of our synod, for the president of our district, for all pastors and teachers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and show forth your glory in all we do, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have asked that we pray for them: for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

[For... *here name the person and the cause of the petition*, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.]**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our lives to Christ our God.

**Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus***

**O holy, holy, holy**

**Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven  
In countless ways recite.**

**Hosanna! Come and save us,  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy  
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage—  
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Blessed are you, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his victory over the grave, our Savior declared death's reign ended, the door to heaven open, and the payment for sin complete.

We celebrate with joy the glorious resurrection of your Son.

We marvel at the depth of your love.

We stand in awe of your power.

We are humbled by the compassion you have shown our fallen race.

Lead us to rejoice in the pardon offered and sealed in this Sacrament and to live a life worthy of your name. The Lord Jesus lives! Alleluia.

**Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,



“Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

### LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"*

Hymn 667

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared this feast for our salvation;  
it is your body and your blood, and at your invitation  
as weary souls, with sin oppressed, we come to you for needed rest,  
for comfort, and for pardon.

Although you did to heav'n ascend, where angel hosts are dwelling,  
and in your presence they behold your glory, all excelling,  
and though your people shall not see your glory and your majesty  
till dawns the judgment morning,

Yet, Savior, you are not confined to any habitation,  
but you are present ev'rywhere and with your congregation.  
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, unmoved by any daring hand  
or subtle craft and cunning.

We eat this bread and drink this cup, your precious Word believing  
that your true body and your blood our lips are here receiving.  
This Word remains forever true, and there is naught you cannot do,  
for you, Lord, are almighty.

Though reason cannot understand, yet faith this truth embraces:  
your body, Lord, is even now at once in many places.  
I leave to you how this can be; your Word alone suffices me;  
I trust its truth unfailing.

Lord, I believe what you have said; help me when doubts assail me.  
Remember that I am but dust, and let my faith not fail me.  
Your supper in this vale of tears refreshes me and stills my fears  
and is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
and, truly grieving for our sins, may prove by our behavior  
that we are thankful for your grace and day by day may run our race,  
in holiness increasing.

For your consoling supper, Lord, be praised through out all ages!  
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place the world against it rages.  
Grant that this sacrament may be a blessed comfort unto me  
when living and when dying.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

*"Oh, How Good It Is"*

**Hymn 731**

Oh, how good it is when the fam'ly of God  
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.  
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love  
are the fruits of his presence here among us.

***Refrain***

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,  
and with one heart we'll live out his word,  
till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,  
for he dwells in the presence of his people.

Oh, how good it is on this journey we share  
to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.  
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace  
when we offer the blessing of belonging.

***Refrain***

Oh, how good it is to embrace his command  
to prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.  
When we live as one we all share in the love  
of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

***Refrain***

**OFFERING**

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