

MAY 18, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Jesus commands us to love one another.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	Romans 12:1-8	New life in Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 4:7-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Friday	1 Corinthians 8:1-3	Love builds up
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the Counselor

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"I [Jesus] give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and merciful God, help us to love as you have loved us so that others may see your glory in the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we give you our thanks and praise for this gift of food, a sign of your constant love for us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May Jesus' love guide you to love others.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with  
Your Love*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time that someone showed you kindness?
- What does it mean to you to love someone as much as Jesus loves you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 13:31-35.

To understand these five verses, we need to know the context of its original setting, Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. Jesus already knew Judas would betray him (13:2) and that Peter would deny him three times (13:38). He had just washed the disciples' feet, a very humble act of service. Now he gives his disciples a new commandment, to love one another. Jesus' glorification involves his faithful love that will not be stopped, not even by his death on a cross. Jesus' crucifixion is his glorification. To love includes acts of humble service that put the community of Jesus' followers above one's own safety. Jesus knows our human weaknesses and that we will fail again and again at this essential commandment, but to love is the only way forward. At the heart of the church's faithful witness to Jesus—even more than moral purity or teaching correct doctrines—is displaying love and forgiveness.

*Discuss:* In what ways have you or someone you know shown love and forgiveness?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you know our weaknesses and failures, yet you love us still; give us faith to love one another as you have loved us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what humble act of kindness can you do for someone?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God gave the apostle John a vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-6). Verse 5 tells us that the one on the throne will make all things new. What do you imagine the new heaven and earth will look like? Take a moment to answer this question. Then draw a picture of what you imagine or write about it on a piece of paper.

*Pray:* **Dear God, you who are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we ask that you dwell within us and make all things new. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)