

# **Faith Lutheran Church**

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ***

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday, April 29, 2018**



# PRELUDE

# WELCOME

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



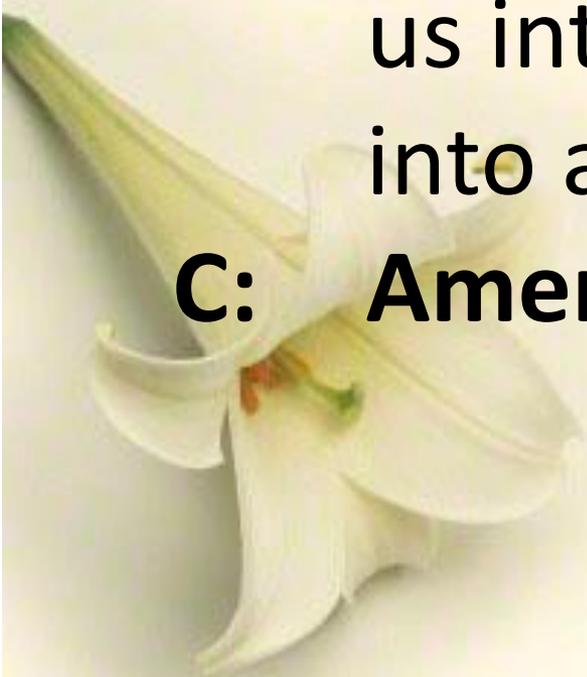
***Noisy Can Collection  
for the Beloit  
Domestic Violence  
Survivor Center***

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✠ one God, who calls us  
beloved children, who gathers  
us into one flock, who guides us  
into all truth.

**C: Amen.**

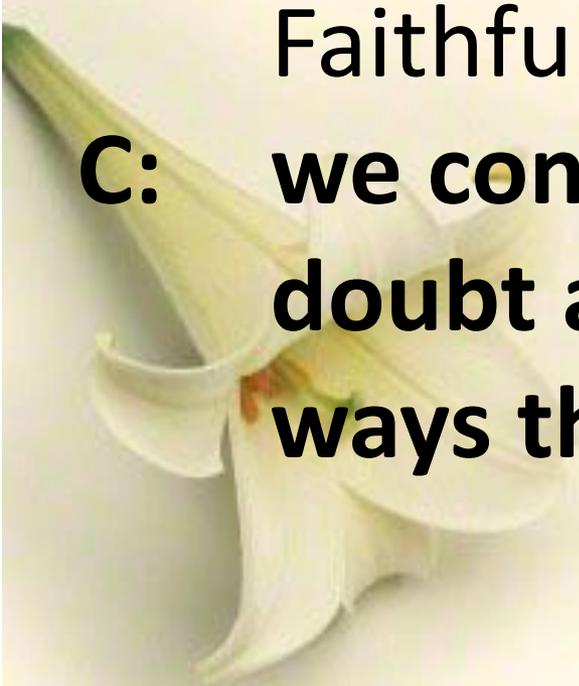


P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

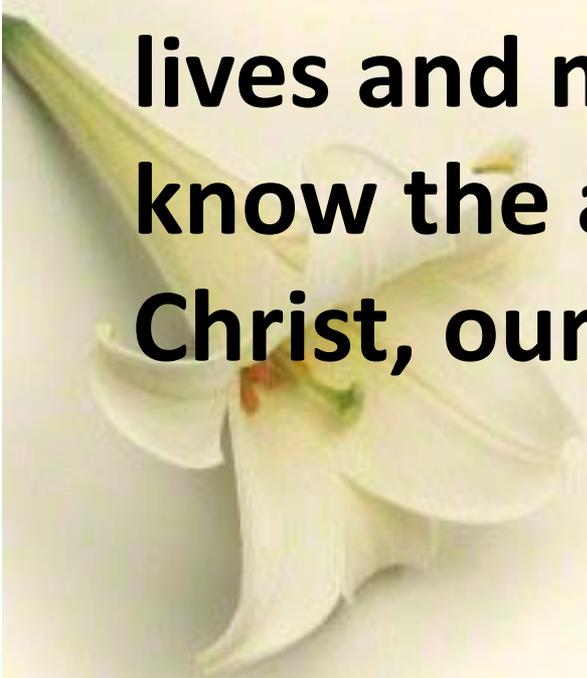
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

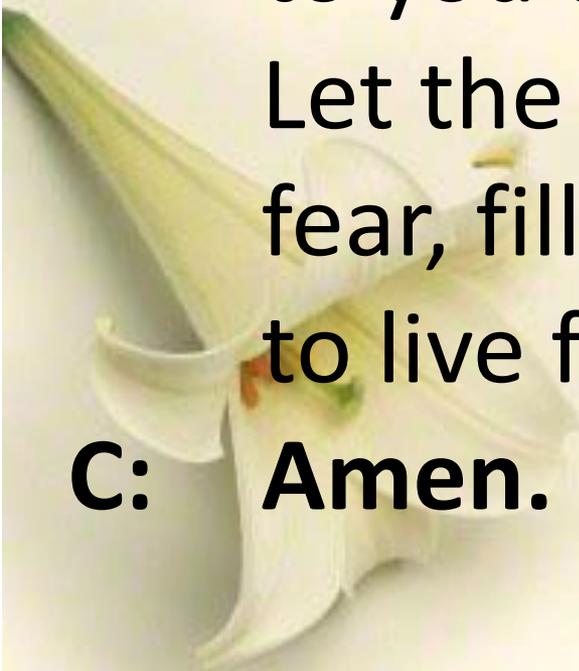
Faithful and just God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.**



**We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**





**P:** In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

**C: Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

***“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”***

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**

**The cross stands empty to the sky.**

**Let streets and homes with praises ring.**

**Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**



**Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.**



**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**



**Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**



**Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**



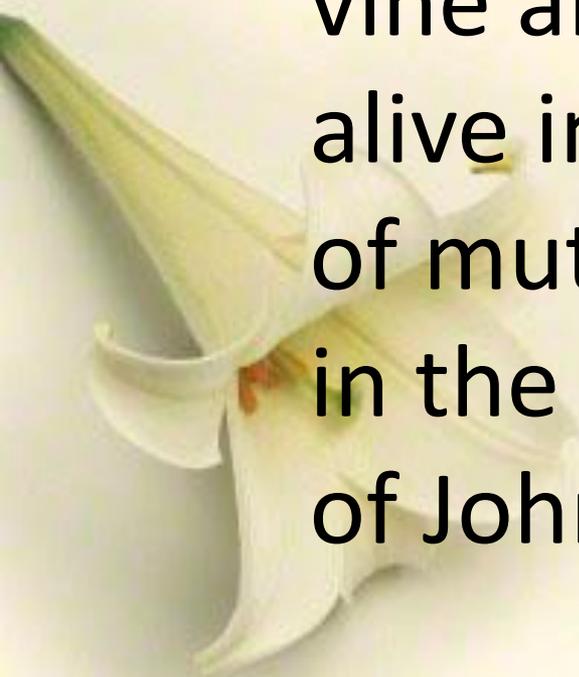
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

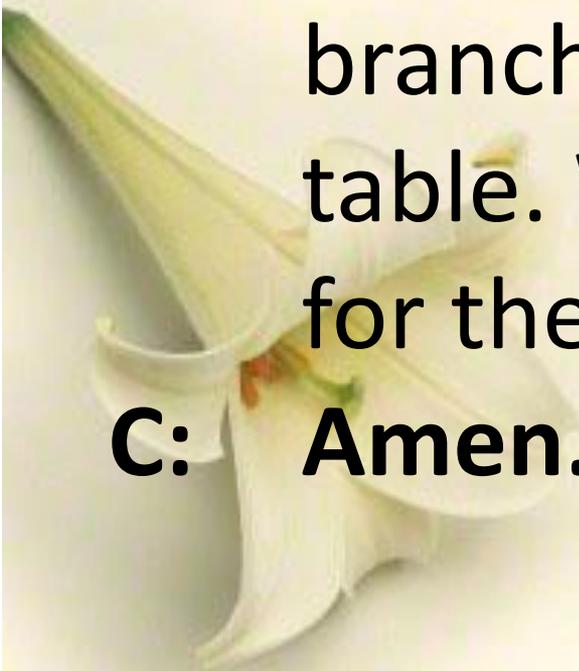
**C: And also with you.**



# INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John.



A white lily flower is positioned in the bottom left corner of the slide, partially overlapping the text. The flower is in full bloom, showing its characteristic six petals and a prominent stamen. The background is a light, neutral color.

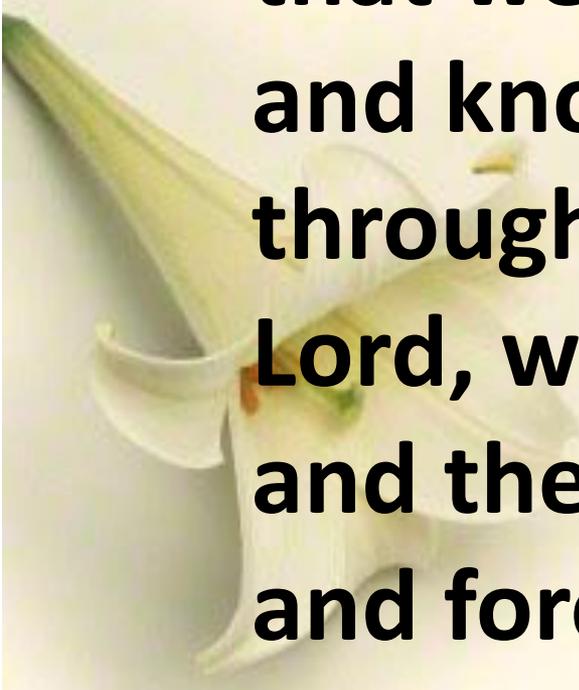
Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)* O God,

**C:** you give us your Son as the vine  
apart from whom we cannot live.  
Nourish our life in his resurrection,  
that we may bear the fruit of love  
and know the fullness of your joy,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever. Amen.

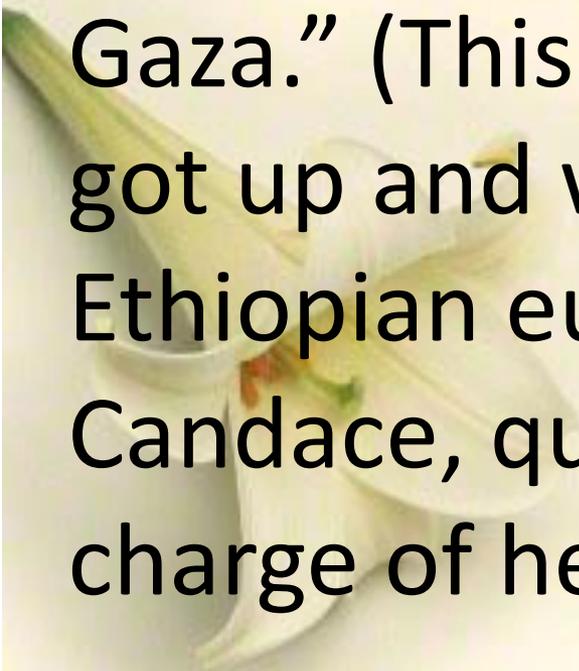


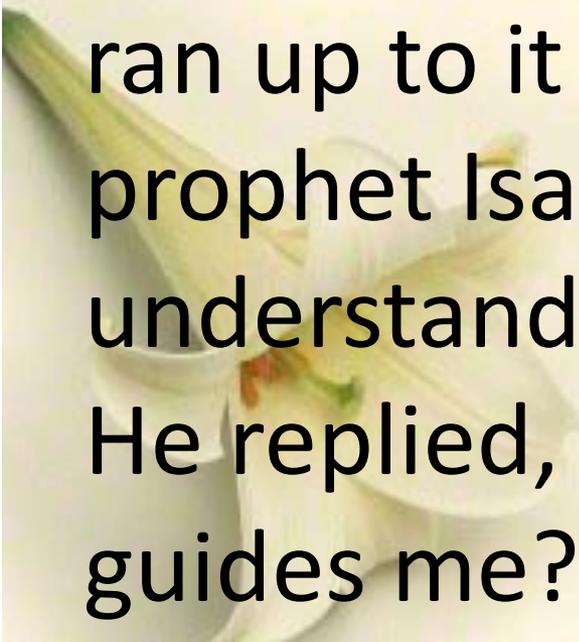


## **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

R: A reading from Acts, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

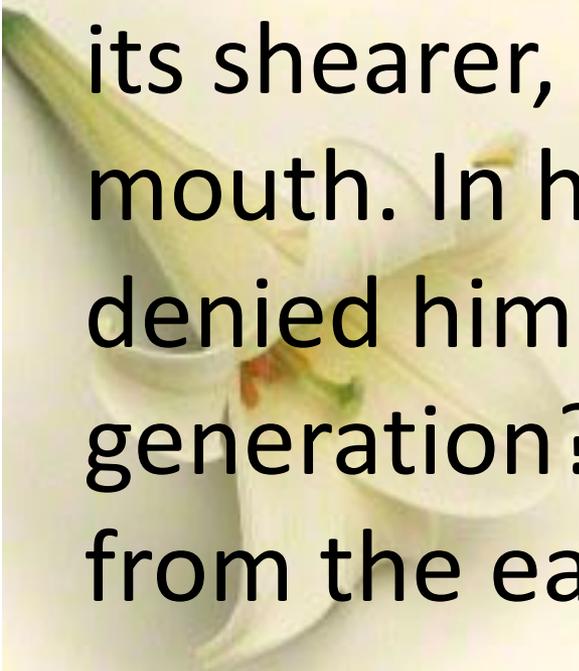
An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

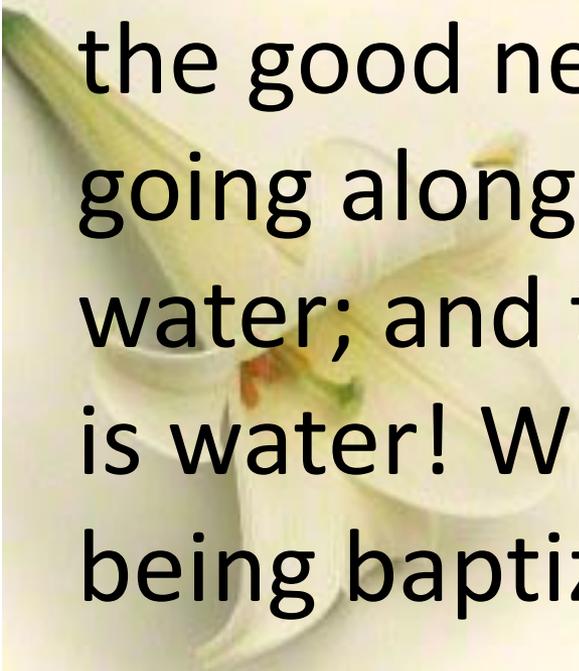




He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

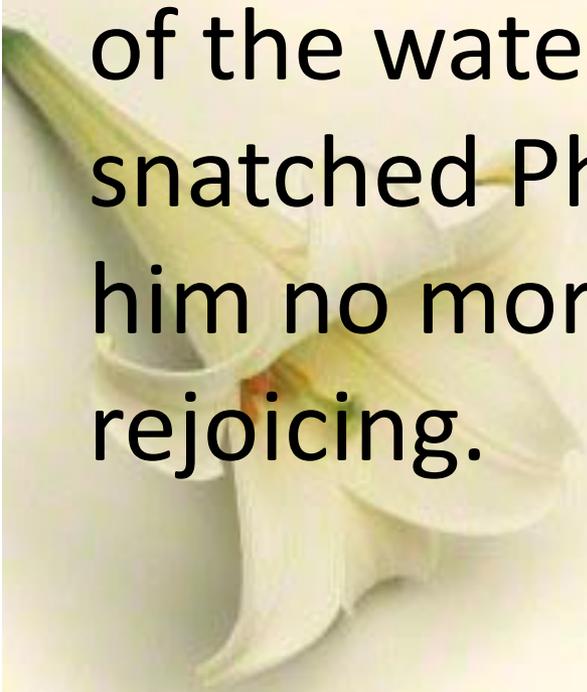
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”





The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”

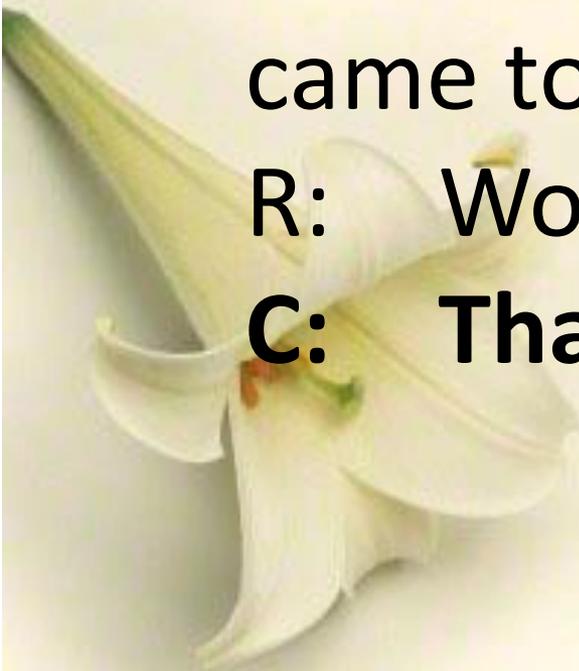
He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.



But Philip found himself at Azotus,  
and as he was passing through the  
region, he proclaimed the good  
news to all the towns until he  
came to Caesarea.

R: Word of God, word of life.

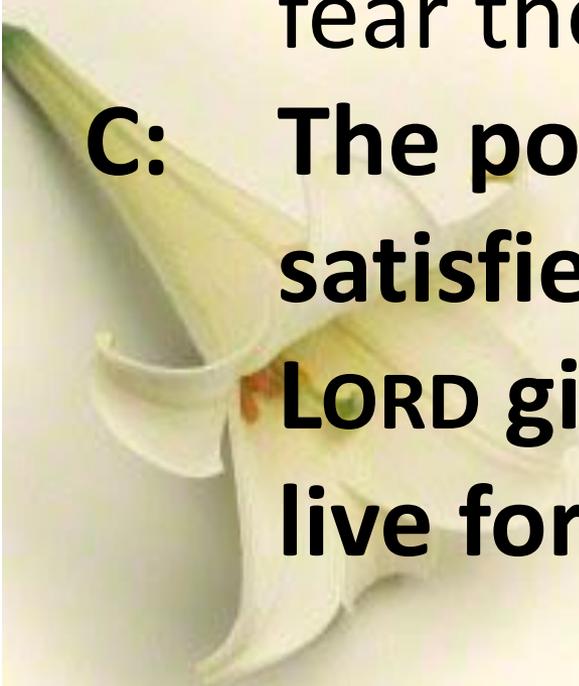
**C: Thanks be to God.**



# A Responsive Reading From Psalm 22

R: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**



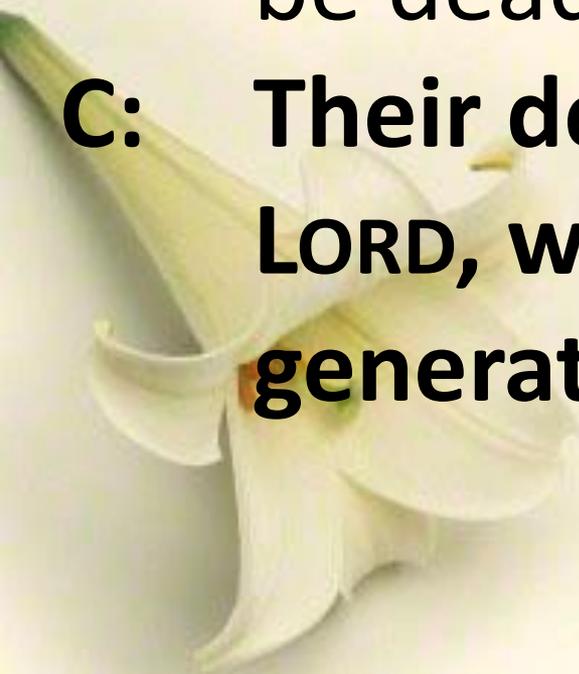
R: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**



R: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**C: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**



R: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

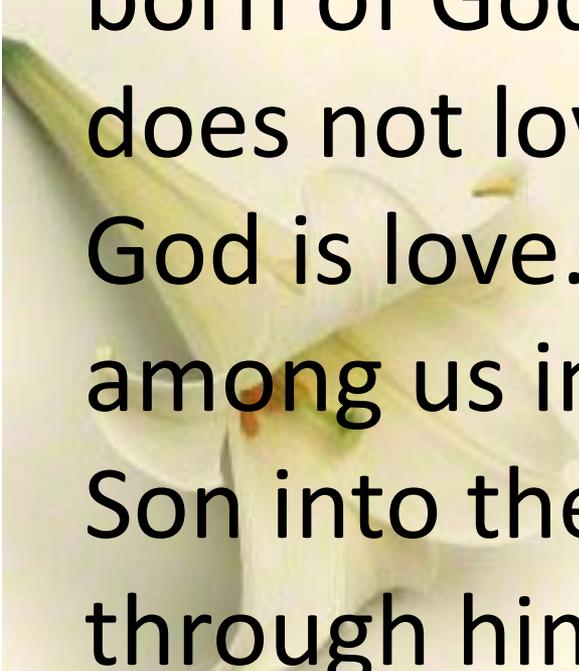
**C: Amen.**



## **SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

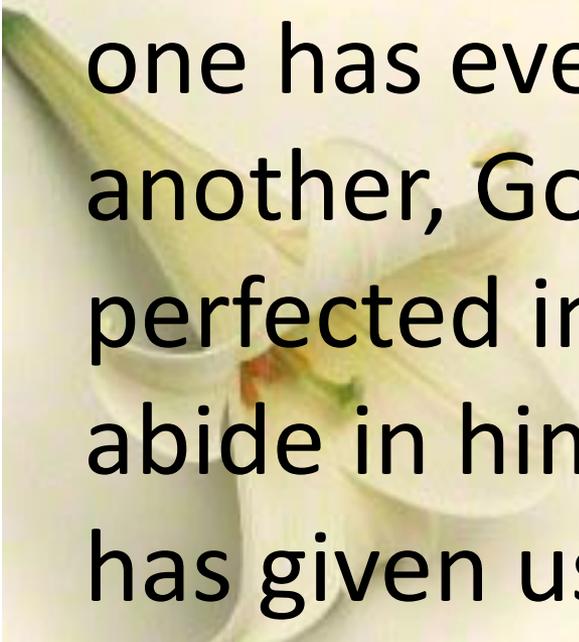
R: A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> John, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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.

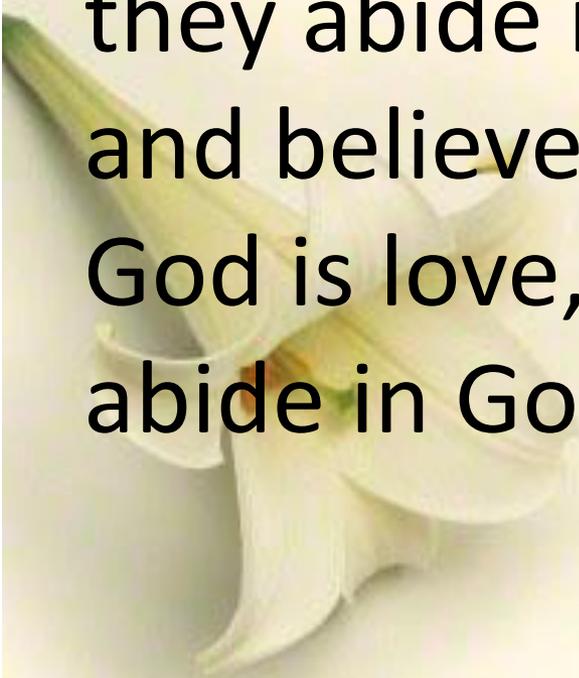


In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

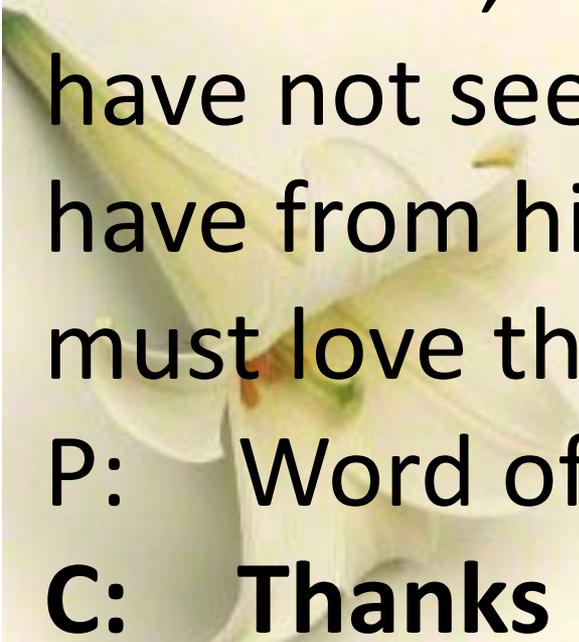


And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.



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. 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.



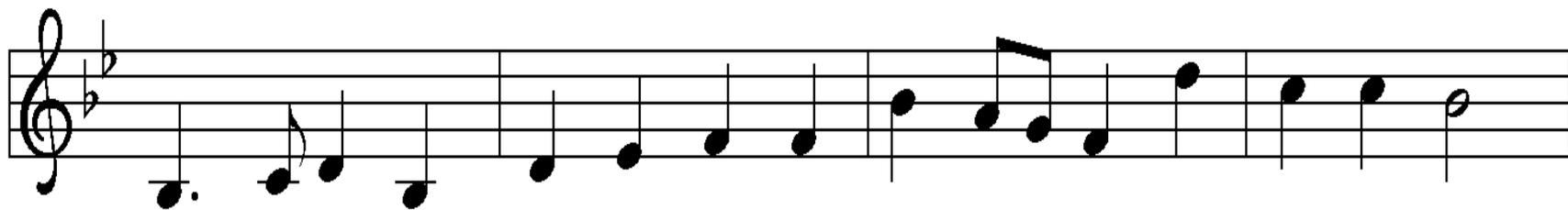


We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

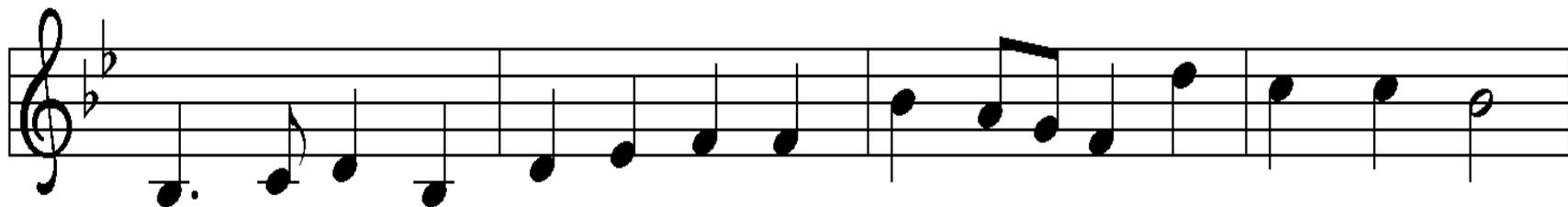
**P:** Word of God, word of life.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

# ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



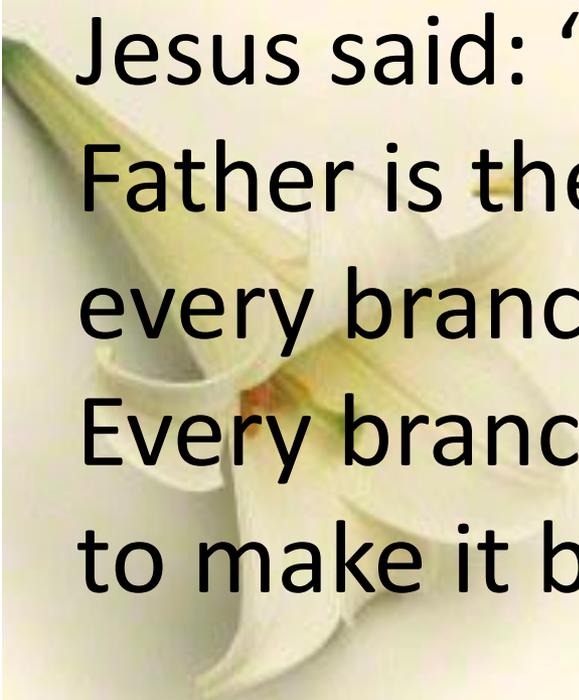
Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

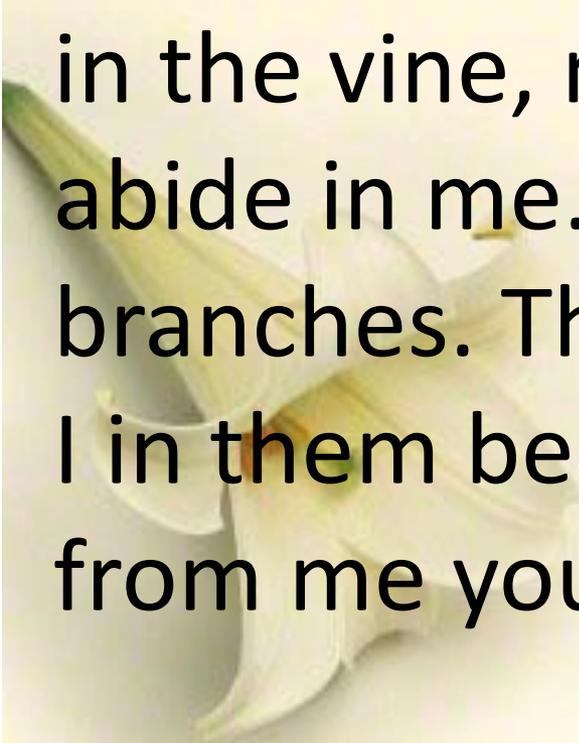
## **GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

**P:** The holy gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

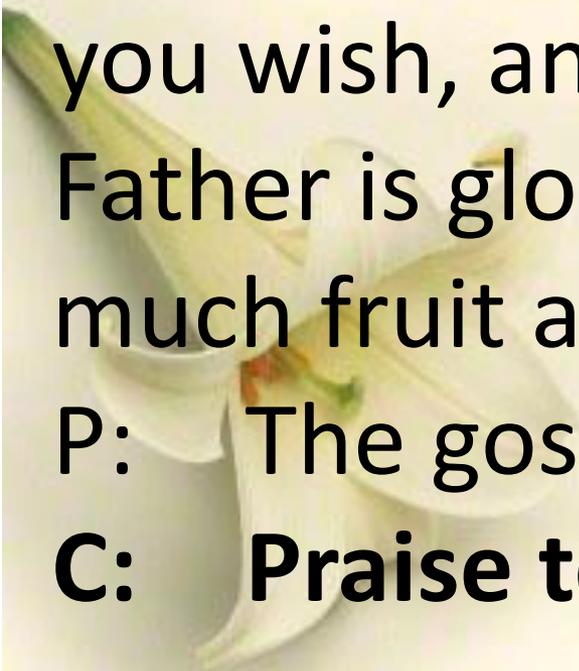
**C: **Glory to you, O Lord.****

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.



A white lily flower is visible in the bottom left corner of the image, partially overlapping the text. The flower is in bloom, with several petals visible, and its stem and leaves are also partially seen. The background is a light, neutral color.

You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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.



Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# **Sermon**

## **“The Importance of Staying Connected”**



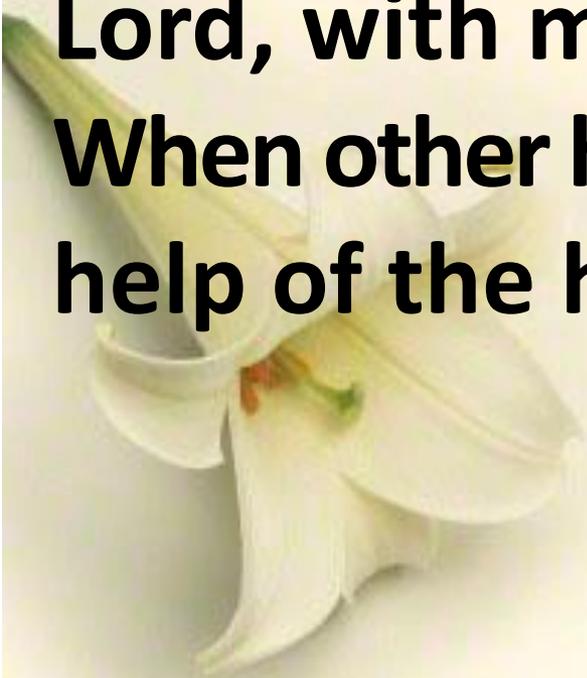
**“HYMN OF THE DAY *“Abide with Me”*”**

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.**

**The darkness deepens;**

**Lord, with me abide.**

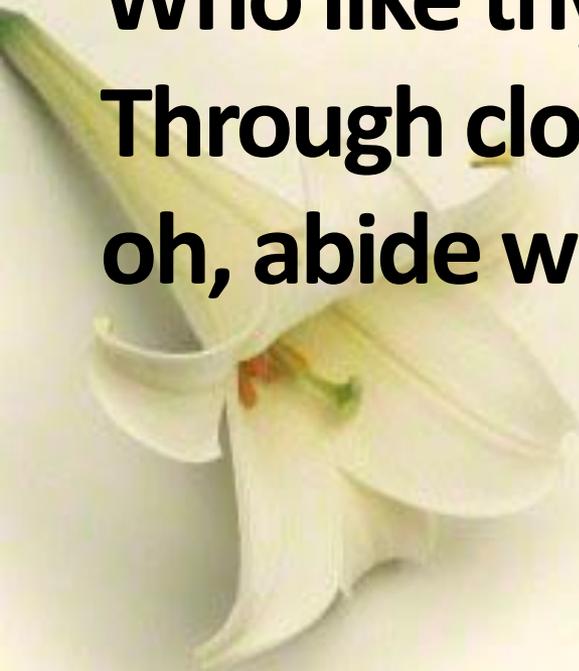
**When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**



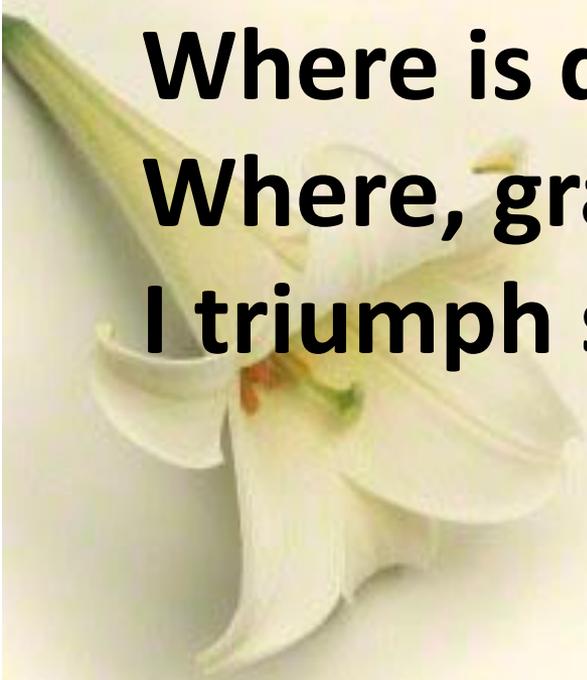
**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**



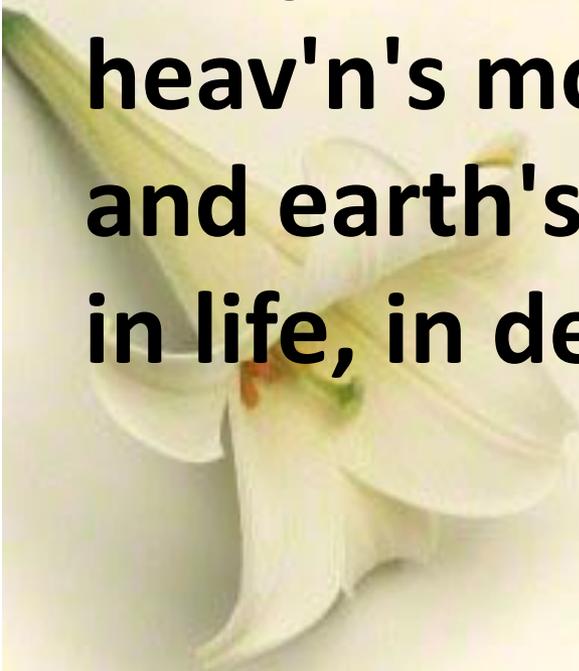
**I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil  
the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine,  
oh, abide with me.**



**I fear no foe,  
with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight,  
and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!**



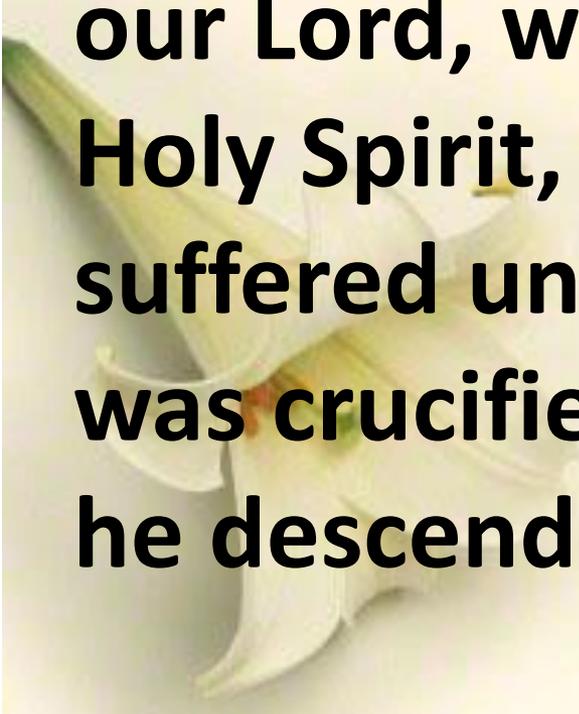
**Hold thou thy cross  
before my closing eyes,  
shine through the gloom,  
and point me to the skies;  
heav'n's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**



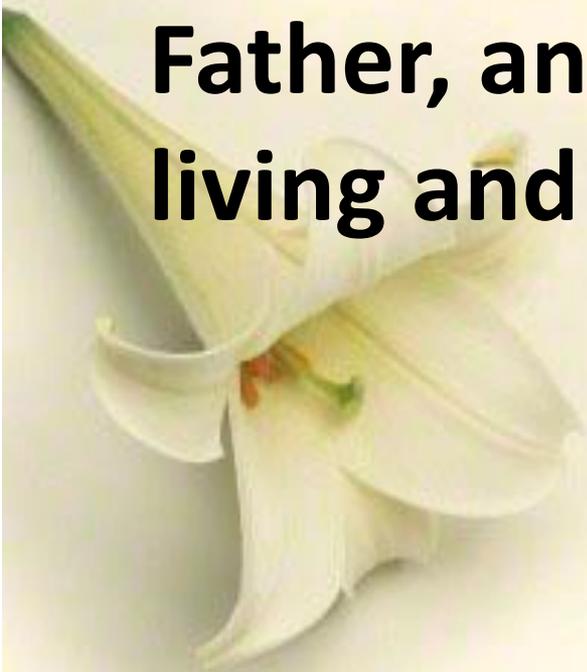
## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**



**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father, and he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.**



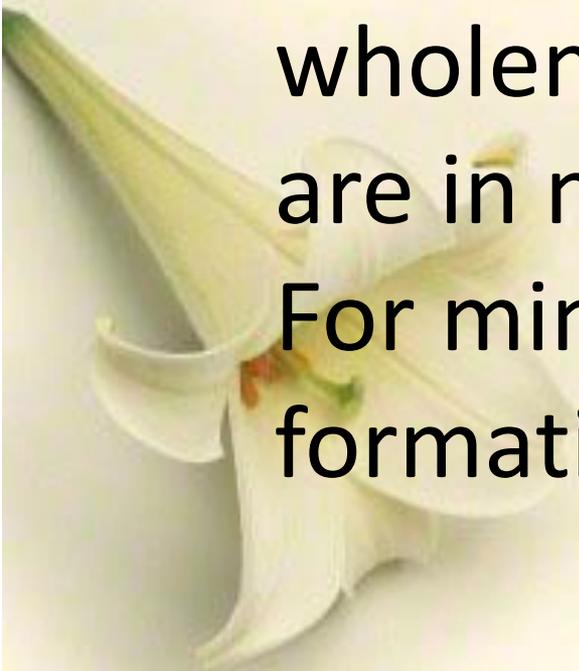
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)*

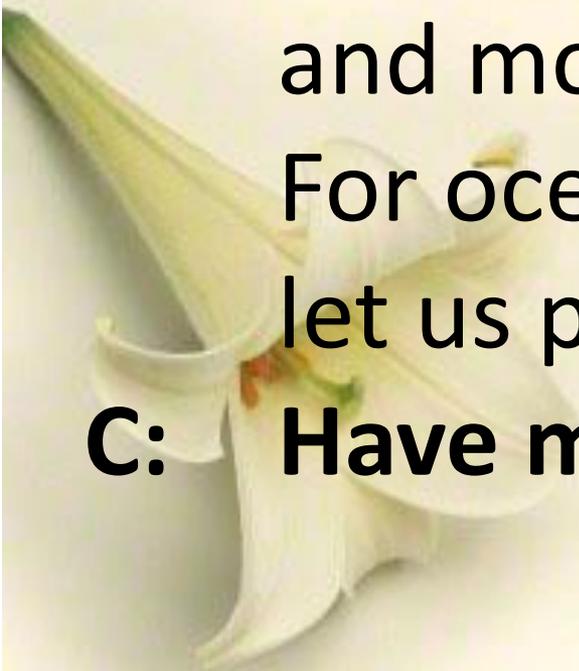
For ministries that nurture faith formation.



For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**





P: For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



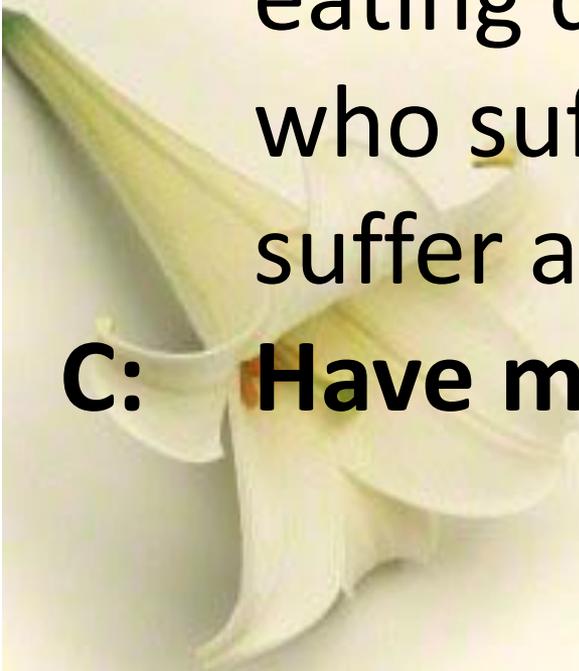
**P:** For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



P: For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick (*especially*), let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



**P:** For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: In thanksgiving for all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



**P:** We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

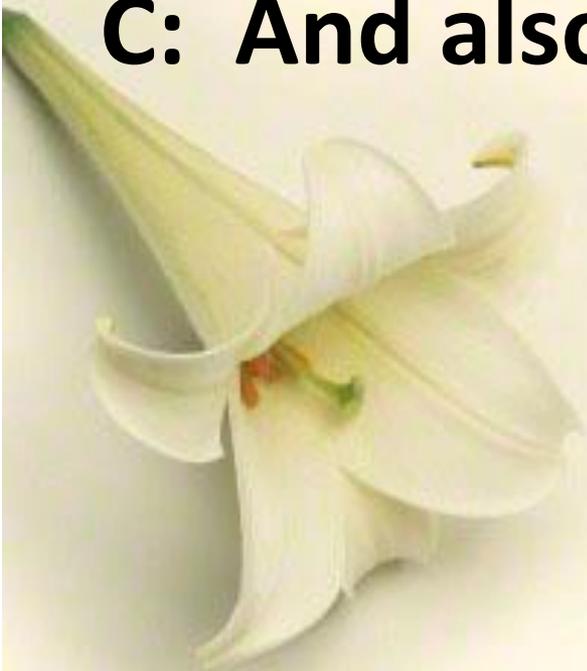
**C: Amen.**



# SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**



**VIDEO DURING OFFERING**

***“Brother”***

**by Need to Breathe**

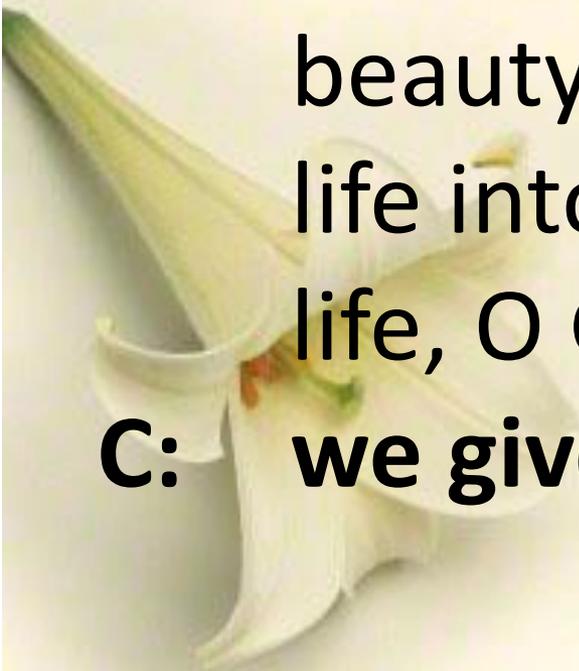




# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**C:** **we give you thanks and praise.**



# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

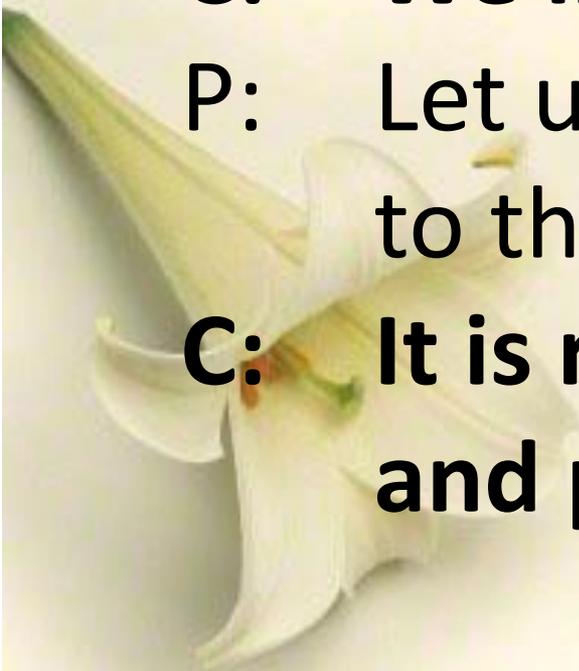
C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



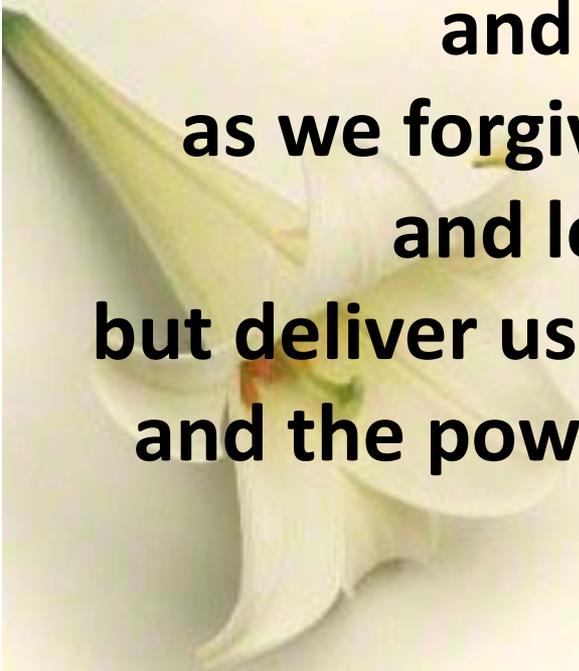
# **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**



# **THE 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.**



# COMMUNION



# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.

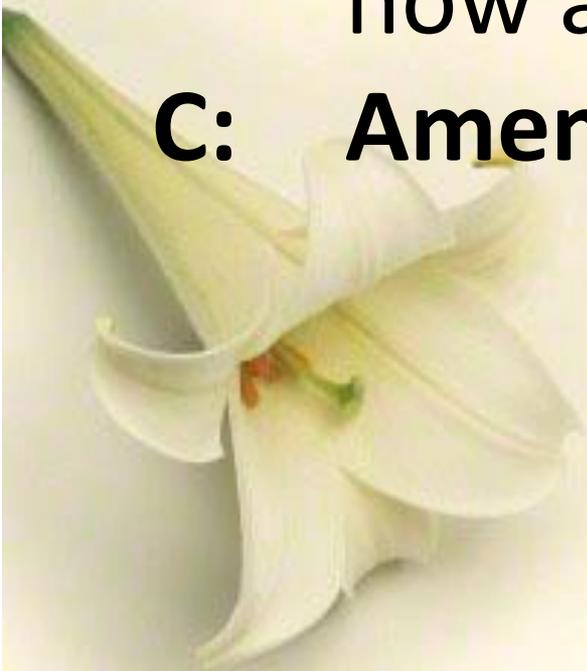
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# **BLESSING**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you  
now and forever.

**C:** Amen.



## **CLOSING HYMN** *“Choral Benediction”*

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May it show us where to travel,  
lead us back if we should stray.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**



**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**



**May the peace of God be with us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.**

**May it guide us and protect us,**

**as we go our separate ways.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.**



## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

