**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 17-18, 2025**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Gospel Reading**

Jn 13:31-33; 34-35

When he had left, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is

glorified in him.

[If God is glorified in him,] God will also glorify him in himself, and he will

glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. You will look for me, and

as I told the Jews, ‘Where I go you cannot come,’ so now I say it to you.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you

also should love one another.

This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one

another.”

**Intercession**

Lord, help us to love like You love – freely, with an accepting and forgiving heart. May our actions, such as support for the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, bear witness to Your love made known to the world through Your Son.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

“Love” is often associated with sentimentality, all roses and poetry, full hearts and butterflies in the stomach. To love, truly and deeply, is hard, though. It’s sacrificial, not superficial. It’s service, work, self-denial. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:5, love “does not seek its own interests.” It doesn’t keep score: You did this for me, so I do this for you. It isn’t contingent on how much the other person loves us. After all, Jesus loved Judas despite the latter’s betrayal.

This is how Jesus loves us – freely, completely, no strings attached. And this is how we are called to love others in His name. We are imperfect. So, we won’t be able to love like this. But we can strive to love as Christ does, and in the striving, we can come close some of the time.

There are many ways we can “have love for one another.” When we care for a parent whom illness has reduced to a child-like state. When we pray for those who have injured us in some way. When we forgive our spouses their shortcomings and recommit to our wedding vows even in our disappointment. And by bringing God’s love to those we may never meet through support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

What is Christ-like love? Acceptance of others just as they are, not as we want them to be. I’d love my husband more if he would just be a little more affectionate. I’d love my wife more if she’d share my sense of humor. I’d love my children more if they had just a little more desire to succeed. This is “conditional love.” It’s dependent on molding others to our satisfaction.

But this isn’t how Jesus loved. Peter denied Jesus three times and still Jesus called him friend and the rock on which He built His church. He forgave those who put Him to death saying, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23: 34). Always, Jesus models His lessons to those who follow Him. He knows we need examples to fully understand what He asks of us. He repeatedly demonstrates His newest commandment, “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”

In imitating Christ’s love for others, we help make Him present here and now. One tangible way we can live out His call to love is a gift to the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal. Please prayerfully consider its support.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Hands reaching out in help

Header: “I give you a new commandment: love one another.” – John 13:34

Copy: We imitate Christ when we accept and forgive others. When we support the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, we answer Christ’s call to love as He loves.