

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Fifth Sunday of Easter



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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### **Welcome!**

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us for a potluck after the service.

### ***BECAUSE HE LIVES***

### ***WE LIVE LIVES OF LAVISH LOVE***

If someone saved you from a horrible death, what would you do to thank them? Probably just about anything they asked! You would be that grateful. Jesus not only saved us from eternal death in hell, but he won for us an eternity in paradise. What shall we do to thank him? This week we see that Jesus asks for just one thing—love. He asks us, in every interaction we have with others, to demonstrate the same selfless love that he has shown to us. That is how we thank him.

Fortunately, Jesus doesn't just ask us to show love. Jesus empowers us to show love. The same divine power which raised Jesus from the dead now raises us up to a new and better life, enabling us to set aside our natural selfishness and self-glorification and instead live in a more excellent way. Like Christ, we strive to do everything for the benefit of others. Because he lives, we live lives of lavish love.

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **568 His Robes for Mine**

**1 His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!**

**Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.**

**Draped in his righteousness, I'm justified.**

**In Christ I live, for in my place he died. (Refrain)**

**Ref I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost: Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.**

**Bought by such love, my life is not my own. My praise, my all, shall be for Christ alone.**

**2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?**

**God's daunting law Christ mastered in my stead.**

**Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,**

**saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life. (Refrain)**

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

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# THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## 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.**

*Be seated*

## FIRST READING

**ACTS 11:1–18**

<sup>1</sup>The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him <sup>3</sup>and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

<sup>4</sup>Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. <sup>6</sup>I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. <sup>7</sup>Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

<sup>8</sup>“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

<sup>9</sup>“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

<sup>11</sup>“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. <sup>14</sup>He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

<sup>15</sup>“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

<sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***PSALM 145A: I Will Exalt My God and King***

- 1 I will exalt my God and King,  
and I will ever praise your name.  
I will extol you ev'ry day  
and evermore your praise proclaim.  
You, LORD, are greatly to be praised;  
your greatness is beyond all thought.  
From age to age your people tell  
the mighty wonders you have wrought.**
- 3 The LORD our God is rich in grace,  
both tender and compassionate.  
His anger is most slow to rise;  
his love and kindness are most great.  
The LORD is good in all his ways;  
his creatures know his constant care.  
To all his works his love extends;  
all creatures in his mercies share.**
- 4 All you have made will praise you, LORD;  
your mighty acts your saints will show,  
till all the peoples on the earth  
the splendor of your kingdom know.  
Eternal is your kingdom, LORD,  
forever strong and ever sure;  
while generations rise and die,  
your glorious reign will still endure.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.  
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## SECOND READING

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

## 1 John 4:16

M: 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

<sup>31</sup>When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

<sup>33</sup>“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.

<sup>34</sup>“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>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!**

*Be seated*

**SERMON**

**JOHN 13:31-35**

*Stand*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**Offering** (*At this time our usher will bring our thank offering to the Lord.*)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

## **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.**

*Be seated*

<b>HYMN: ALL IS WELL</b>
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*Stand*

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

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 T give you peace.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*

<b>HYMN: THIS IS MY WILL</b>
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#### **Acknowledgments**

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