

Hymns for Sunday, May 2, 2021

Gathering Song – ELW # 656 Blest Be the Tie that Binds vs 1, 3 & 4

Hymn of the Day – ACS # 1005 Ask the Complicated Questions (found on insert)

Sending Song – ELW # 367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds vs. 1 & 3

Quilt Dedication

Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts — a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the Quilts we have made, to you.

We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material; collecting each piece we have created an expression of love. There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life — how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

Adapted from a litany written by Shirley Splittgerber of Omaha, Nebraska, for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's LWR Workday

Prayer of the Day

O God, **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: 1John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to _____. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(Jesus said:) ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Blessing of Graduates

At this time, we are delighted to invite forward seniors, their parents and guardians.

We celebrate this next step in your lives. On this important day, the day when we mark your leaving high school and stepping into new ventures, we ask God's blessing for you and are reminded of this verse from Matthew 28:20, when Jesus said, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Parents/Guardians place hands on the shoulders of their children. Congregation raises hands in blessing.)

Let us pray. God of creation, pour out your Spirit on these students as they enter a new period of life and faith. Bless these seniors as they begin new ventures as faithful people, hearing your words, responding in thankfulness by proclaiming your love and grace through words and deeds, and serving all people while doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God. We pray all this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**