

Sixth Sunday After Easter
Sunday, May 17, 2020



Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

We are "a worshipping and caring Christian community, sharing God's compassion and grace with all people in need of love and acceptance within this congregation, the community, and the world!"

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Word

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead. A reading from Acts.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

PSALM (Read responsively)

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right. A reading from 1 Peter.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Celtic Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker
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The holy gospel according to the 14th chapter of St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

SERMON

“Peace be with you.”

The gospel of John tells us that these were the first words the risen Jesus spoke to his followers, when he came to them behind the doors of a locked room on the very first Easter Sunday. And we heard that story together in church on April 19th.

Of course, those words are also very familiar to us for another reason: we use them in church every Sunday—or, at least, every Sunday when we’ve been able to meet together—because they’re a

part of the exchange of peace. And the exchange of peace is that part of the worship that falls in between the Word and the Meal parts of the service—the part where we turn to our neighbors and shake their hands and wish them peace. And maybe I'm just a big liturgical nerd, but I honestly think it's kind of cool that at every service we take the time to greet one another with these resurrection words. And yet it's equally strange to think that a part of that greeting is probably going to be endangered for awhile.

The hand-shaking part, at any rate. We know that when we're able to start meeting together again, it's going to be necessary for us to continue some social distancing for awhile. And that will mean no shaking hands, no reaching out to your neighbor for the time being. Even touching elbows or bumping feet would probably bring us too close together. And that, undoubtedly, is going to feel a little awkward at first.

But whether we're allowed to touch each other or not, those words—peace be with you—are knit into the very fabric of our faith. We carry them with us wherever we go, wherever we stay. And through the gospels of this Easter season, God has been teaching us just what that means.

Don't panic, Jesus says to his very first followers. Don't let your life and your gatherings be filled with fear, he says to them—and to us.

Do not believe I have abandoned you or left you floundering. Peace is my enduring gift to you, and I am with you always.

The gospel reading that you just heard comes from that part of John's gospel that is sometimes called Jesus' farewell discourse. The setting is during the last supper, just a matter of hours before Jesus will be arrested, put on trial and sent to the cross. And yet, we encounter these words not as the last words from someone who is about to die and thus won't be able to speak any more. In them, we hear again and again that Jesus' death is not the end, but a going away to his Father. Within them, we find the promise that even this going away is not a permanent thing, for he is going to return—in his resurrection, in the gift of the Holy Spirit—and promises life and a greater unity with himself and God the Father than ever before.

But what does that look like, really? What does it mean for us to say that Christ stands in our midst?

It means that when people see us, they are seeing Christ.

I know there are times when that doesn't seem to make any sense. Times when all we can see is how far away from Christ we really are, how unworthy and sinful we really are. Me, represent Christ? Maybe on my very best day—but certainly not every day.

We should keep in mind, though, that this life of faith is a process for all of us. None of us is ever going to be perfect at it, and none of us have already arrived at the fullest measure of it. Jesus is still leading us on, moving us from fear to faith. And when we leave fear behind and walk by faith in God's love, we become more like Christ. And that transformation reveals Christ, who does stand in our midst.

Whenever we come together, whether it's here in person or here in front of our tablet and computer screens, we really do come as we are. We come as a mixture of good and bad, of faith and fear. We're all on the way to where God wants us to be.

And sometimes, we probably wish things could be different. We wish we could get rid of the fear completely, and be all faith. But still, we hear Jesus' promise to be with us, we hear his words that he will not leave us orphaned, and sometimes we also wonder if he is really with us or not, right here in our midst—or if we are on our own.

Well, here's one sign of the resurrection in our midst. In the past couple of months, we've seen how the circumstances that we've all been living under have brought out the worst in us. Selfishness. Hoarding. Exploitive behavior. Abusive behavior. A total lack of concern for how our own behavior is

going to impact those around us. The tendency to spread half-truths and outright lies. It really makes you wonder why it has to be this way.

But at the same time, there have been plenty of signs of hope, if you know where to look for them. The determined faces of those working to help us and heal us. Those who grieve but who have not given up. Those who give comfort and strength. Acts of generosity and selflessness. Time given and spent in worthwhile activities. Words and gestures designed to encourage and support. We need all of these things. And in them, we see people moving out of the darkness and into the light. In these trying, turbulent times, we have been shown, again and again, that we are living under Christ's gift of peace.

So let us draw on the power of the Spirit for courage, to help us continue to move from fear to faith, so that we might become the light of Christ for a world in need.

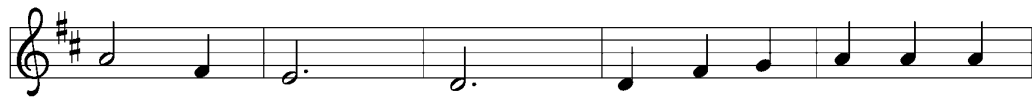
Peace be with you. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You uphold us in your tender, loving care. Embrace us when we are filled with fear, strengthen and help all essential workers and bring to safety all who struggle with their health. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING

“Inscription of Hope”

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”



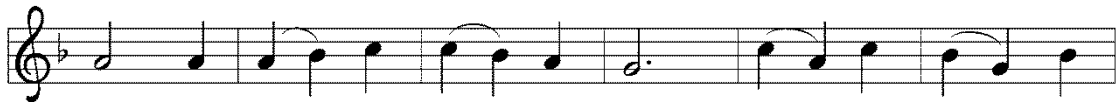
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Announcements

- **My Dear Church Family**, I continue to pray for you every day and hope that you are doing as well as you are able during these times. Remember that I'm available to you throughout this time of pandemic. You can make an appointment to see me when I'm at church, and I'll celebrate communion with you. We just have to keep our numbers below 10. I'm also willing to come to you, if you would like and if you're able to have visitors. Just let me know. I also ask you to remember to continue to support our church as you are able. Although we are not going to be able to gather together for awhile, the expenses and needs of the church go on. Your support makes this ministry possible. As we continue to navigate these unprecedented waters, please continue to be safe. And remember that God is with us. God bless you, Pastor Jim
- Remember that, if you wish, you are invited to **borrow a hymnal from church** for use in your own times of devotion and worship. Hymnals are available on one of the tables near the entrance to the fellowship hall. Just stop by and sign one (or more than one) out! Alternately, you may call Pastor Jim and he will drop one off at your home. If you live in a facility where access may be restricted, please check and make sure that a hymnal may be dropped off for you.
- Lorene Bruntzel has been busy making masks, and she has graciously provided a box of them for the church! The masks are available in the church's fellowship hall, on the same table as the hymnals. Stop by and pick some up at your leisure (you might want to call ahead if you don't have a key and let us know that you're coming). Alternately, if you don't want or are unable to go out, you can call the office and Pastor Jim would be happy to deliver some masks to your home. Just let us know! And a big thank you to Lorene for providing this wonderful service for our congregation! One final note: Lorene says to be sure and launder the masks before using.
- **VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE!** The annual blood drive will take place in June but not at OSLC. Donations will be collected at the Community Blood Center, 6220 SW 29th St. Topeka, any day beginning **Monday, June 8 through Saturday, June 20**, to be counted as OSLC donation. **To register, each donor must make an appointment with the Blood Center contact, Melissa Booher at 816-305-1761 or mbooher@cbckc.org. When making the appointment, give the group code TPKY. Appointments are REQUIRED; walk-ins will not be accepted at this time.** Community Blood Center hours are 7:30-4:00, Monday – Friday and 7:30-1:00 on Saturday and Sunday. Our goal for this drive is 20 donors. Please help make this drive a success during a difficult time for the Blood Center. If you have questions, please contact Ron Kassebaum, at 862-7499 or ckrskass1@att.net.
- Pat Dunavan has placed **several Thrivent T-shirts in the Fellowship Hall**. They were provided through a Thrivent Action Team Grant. If you would like one, please feel free to pick one up next time you are at the church. They are available in sizes medium to 2XL.

**MAY 17, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Jesus will not abandon us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:7-8	God will be with you
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalm 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I [Jesus] will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."
John 14:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come, Holy Spirit, give me the faith and strength to love others as Christ has loved me and the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food and the people who have brought it from the earth to our tables, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who made the world and everything in it, bless you with a loving heart. (Acts 17:24)



MAY 17, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Holy Spirit, Come to Us



taking faith home

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:

- Think or tell about a time you have felt alone and afraid.
- What do you do when you feel all alone or abandoned?
- Talk or think about a time you have felt God's presence when no one else seemed to care.

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 14:15-21.

The Gospel of John weaves themes into one another like a beautiful tapestry. That is clearly what is going on here in John 14. At the heart of it is that Jesus will not abandon his followers. He loves them and wants them to love him by keeping his commandments (v. 15), which is to love one another (13:34). Jesus will remain with us, his followers, through the presence of "another Advocate" (v. 16), just as Jesus himself is an advocate (1 John 2:1). The word "advocate" in the original Greek also means counselor, helper, or intercessor. The Advocate is here to help us. Like Jesus, the other advocate is the Holy Spirit, "Spirit of truth," just as Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). After Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, we still have Jesus with us through the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes Christ a reality in our lives today in that we may love one another and the world as God does (John 3:16). We are not abandoned after Jesus' ascension; we are empowered to live out the new commandment to love one another and the world. How do you, as a follower of Jesus, live out the new commandment?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

Jesus gives us the commandment to love others by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-21). There are times when it is not easy to love because of actions or things said or not said. Think of someone that it is not easy to care for and offer this prayer for them: **Dear Jesus, open my heart to the needs of others. Help me to care for (name) with your love. Amen.**

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 14:15-21, Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. One pivotal principle of faith formation is that faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Write a list of people who have influenced your life of faith. How did they influence you? Name a person who you have or would like to influence and pray for them this week asking for the power of the Holy Spirit to form a trusted relationship.



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