



ST. ELISABETH'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GLENCOE IL



FAMILY CHAPEL

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

4:00 PM *VIA* ZOOM

Gathering Song

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.
Beloved, let us loved one another, for God is love.

Opening Prayer

Context for Today's Lesson

John's version of the greatest commandment goes beyond Matthew and Mark in expounding on what it means to love God and others as God loves us. Jesus simplifies and intensifies the law: all of God's laws are meant to be motivated by love, not by a sense of obligation. Jesus shows this love on the cross. His use of friendship is also important. In the ancient world, friendship was taken seriously. Putting another's needs equal to one's own implies Jesus is looking for companions in his mission, not servants. This text makes a high demand on friendship, telling us the greatest thing to do is to lay down our lives for our friends! As we learn to make and maintain friendships, we see how this boils down to everyday life. A friendship shouldn't be based solely on what we get out of it. Instead, being a good friend means showing concern for other people and taking their feelings into account every day. We can "lay down our lives for our friends" by simply caring about them every day.

Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17, *New Revised Standard Version*

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Group Reflection

- What did you hear about love?
- From where did Jesus' love for the disciples come?
- Who is showing you how to love?
- How do your friendships reflect what you've learned about love?
- How specifically does the way you treat everyone show that you are a loving person in friendships?
- Reread verses 12 and 13. What do you think Jesus meant?

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Leader

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

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 for ever. Amen.

Prayer Song

Come in your fullness.
We bring our longings.
Life-giving God, hear our prayers.

Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.

Let Us Love One Another



God sent us Jesus to show how big God's love is. Jesus loved EVERYONE. How do you show people you love them?