



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

The Word

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Week of April 24*

### ***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
- ✦ *Then: “In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . .”*

### ***The Word of God***

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

John 13: 31-35

When Judas had left them, 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 God will glorify him at once.  
My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.  
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.”

### ***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Child:** How do you share love with others and show that you are one of Jesus’ disciples?

**Teens:** What makes it difficult to accept those who think or act differently than you? What helps make that easier?

**Adult:** What holds you back from living a deeper life of service and following Jesus’ new commandment?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
 your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
 As we leave here today,  
 be with us in all our comings and goings,  
 and in all that we say and do.  
 We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
 Amen.