

Bread for the Journey: May 14, 2020
Part 12: “O Love that Will Not Let Me Go”

**Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!
He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**



***Sunrise Through the Plum Blossoms
on the church grounds in May 2020.
Photo by Jane Lauritsen.***



Order for House Worship on the Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10th
Includes Scripture Readings for this Sunday.

Please Listen... You won't want to pass by this one!

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

*By Elaine Hagenberg for SATB choir and piano. Text by George Matheson (1842-1906).
Conducted by Craig Courtney. Accompanied by Dan Forrest.*

*O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine oceans depths its flow.
May richer fuller be.*

*O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day.
May brighter fairer be.*

*O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I chase the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain.
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust's life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red.
Life that shall endless be.*

O Love...

By Elaine Hagenberg for TTBB choir, cello and piano.

Text by George Matheson (1842-1906).

Baylor University Men's Choir, Randall Bradley, Director.

(This stirring arrangement of "O Love" was to have been performed by the Men's Ensemble of [Lux Cantorum Chicago](#) at Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church on May 3rd, 2020.)

[A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.](#)

Narrated by Max McLean.

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" A Sermon for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

by Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Riverside.

Thank you so very much everyone for being constant in prayer, offering your abundant ministries to one another and those in need, and faithfully and generously continuing to support the congregation in its mission during this time when we have been worshiping in our homes. Let us continue to take heart by trusting that our modest efforts and small sacrifices are sparing so many others of the suffering, grief and hardship of the present darkness. I pray that the Holy Spirit would sustain and strengthen us with faith in the living God who always creates light from darkness, brings good from evil, and raises life from death. The peace, light and hope of our Lord's cross and resurrection be with you and your household—and with all the peoples of the earth!—djl

Please listen and sing...

[Abide with Me](#)

The St. Olaf Cantorei, Congregation, and Organist and Conductor James Bobb

sing the hymn "Abide With Me".

Words by Henry F. Lyte; music by William H. Monk.



At LaGrange Hospital Chapel on a January evening 2020 pastoral visit.

***Thank you to all healthcare workers and first responders!
God bless and magnify all our efforts to nurture, sustain, heal, console,
and defend life throughout the earth!***

Please listen and sing...

Now Thank We All Our God

Composed by Johannes Cruger (1598-1662).

Arranged by John Rutter for Choir and Chamber Ensemble.

Sung by the Cambridge Singers, John Rutter, Conductor.

Accompanied by the City of London Sinfonia.



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JOHN 14:1-14



From the writings of Thomas Merton...

***O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.***

(Source: Thomas Merton, *Pax Christi*, Benet Press, Erie, PA.)

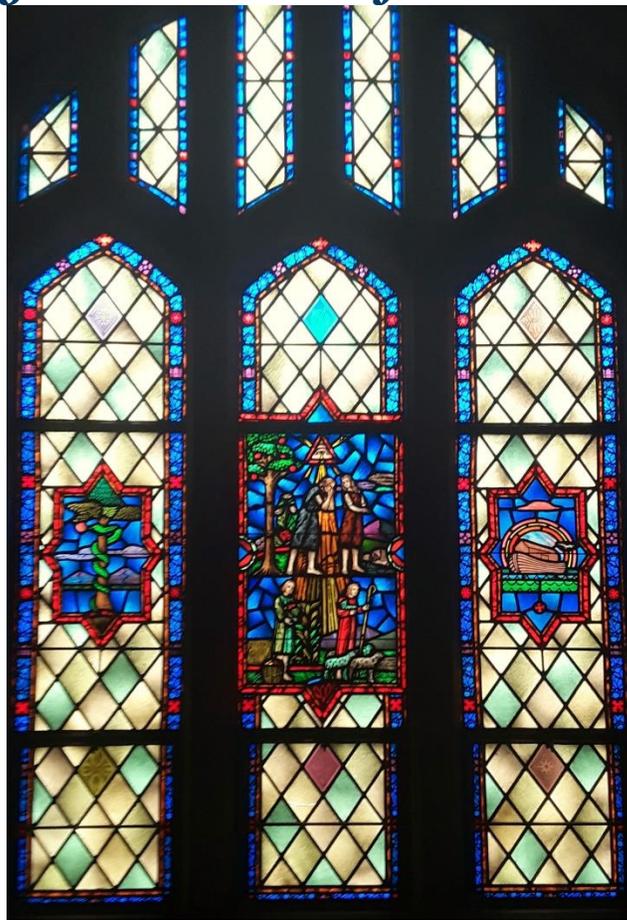
Closing Prayer

God of all troubled hearts, help us to believe in you when we feel worried, upset, lost, and cannot seem to find you. Jesus, remind us each day that through your words and actions you point us to God. May we point others to you, Lord, through the work you have given to us today. Through the Holy Spirit help us make room for you in our homes and our hearts, and to know that wherever we dwell, you are there living in us. Amen.

Beannacht

An Irish Blessing by John O'Donahue.

Coming Soon to "Bread for the Journey"...



[A Story in Every Stained Glass Window:](#)

[A Narrated Tour of the Stained Glass Windows at Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Riverside.](#)

Click on the link directly below the window for a brief introduction to stained glass. For a more in-depth look at stained glass and its history see: **[History of Stained Glass](#)** from the Stained Glass Association of America.

It is Well with My Soul

Arranged by Rene Clausen.

Penned by hymnist Horatio Spafford and composed by Philip Bliss.

Sung by the Wartburg Choir, April 24th, 2016, at First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska during the 10:30 Worship Service. Lee Nelson, Conductor. Tom Trenney, Organist.

A very strong proof of this destruction of death and its conquest by the cross is supplied by a present fact, namely this. All the disciples of Christ despise death; they take the offensive against it and, instead of fearing it, by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ trample on it as on something dead (St. Athanasius, fourth century).

May Parish Newsletter...

Please download and print for those who do not have access to electronic communication.

■ [May 2020 Parish Newsletter.pdf](#)

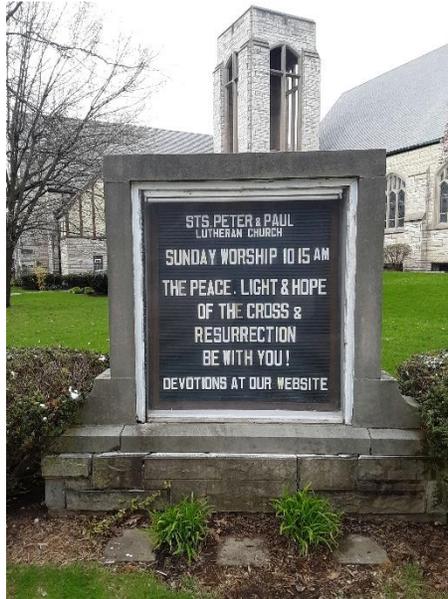
How to Find Peace in a Pandemic

By Daniel Darling. Published by In Touch Ministries.

Submitted by Charles Matthies.



Many people are without work; they don't have be without food. Your donation will go a long way at... [Feeding America](#).



Saints Peter and Paul Logo *Design by Paul Gavac.*

A Ray of Light in Our Darkness:

[Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Riverside](#)

...for sermons, worship folders, recent news, newsletters, videos and more.

“Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Christ, hear us. In mercy hear us. God, the Father in heaven, have mercy on us. God, the Son, redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us. Be gracious to us. Spare us, good Lord...” (from the opening verses of The Litany, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, pages 168ff).

Please consider praying (and singing) [The Litany](#) in your homes during the evening hours.