



CELEBRATING AT HOME  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Farewell, glory & discipleship of love (John 13:31-35)*



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### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in  
this moment of prayer.**

### Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,  
**you are our Way.**

Lord Jesus,  
**you are our Truth.**

Lord Jesus,  
**you are our Life.**

Risen Christ,  
you always meet us with warmth and love.  
**Give us the hope and peace we need  
to remain strong in our care of each other.  
Amen.**

### Scripture Reading (*John 13:31-35*)

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified,  
and in him God has been glorified.  
If God has been glorified in him,  
God will in turn glorify him in himself,  
and will glorify him very soon.

My little children,  
I shall not be with you much longer.  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another;  
just as I have loved you,  
you also must love one another.  
By this love you have for one another,  
everyone will know that you are my disciples’.

### Reflection - *Farewell, glory & discipleship of love*

Given during Jesus’ last meal with his disciples, these words begin what is called *The Farewell Discourse* in John’s Gospel (13:31-17:26). They are Jesus’ last words to his disciples before his death.

In the course of offering assurance and comfort, Jesus develops various themes that have been introduced earlier in his ministry, including in particular glory, mutual indwelling and love. His main point is the experience of life in God the disciples have and will continue to have. The relationship between the Father and the Son, which has been revealed in the first twelve chapters of the Gospel, Jesus now declares to be realised in the disciples.

The relationship between the Father, the Son and the Spirit are described in more detail here than anywhere else in the Bible. In these chapters, therefore, is the most profound teaching on God and discipleship in the Bible.

The first part of today’s Gospel reading is a bit confusing unless we understand that ‘glory’ in the biblical tradition has to do with the revelation of the unseen God. So, in these lines there is a sense of mutual glorification - the Father is revealed in the Son and the Son reveals the Father in his death on the cross. The Son will reveal the love of the Father most patently when he gives up his life.

Using the intimate form of address, ‘My little children,’ Jesus gently begins to prepare the disciples for the difficult reality of his leaving them.

Just as Jesus has been God’s love in action in the world, so now, the disciples must be. The indispensable nature of abiding in love is underlined by the use of ‘commandment’. It is through their mutual love that all will recognise them as disciples of the One who loved even to laying down his life.

### Prayers of Intercession

May we draw our life from you  
**and bear the fruit of the kingdom in peace,  
hope and love.**

We pray for genuine love among ourselves;  
**may we put aside our differences peacefully.**

We thank you for gifts, skills and talents.  
**Help us to dedicate them to the good of our  
human family.**

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### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,  
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

### Closing Prayer

Lord, God,  
in the resurrection of Jesus  
you share with us his risen life.  
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation  
with your comforting presence  
so that we can be your calm, loving,  
healing presence for one another.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,  
**and remain with us for ever.**



# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



The  
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