

MAY 2, 2021  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Perfect love casts out fear.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 15:1-8</b>	<b>Jesus the true vine</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 8:26-40</b>	<b>Phillip and the eunuch</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 John 4:7-21</b>	<b>God is love</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 41:8-10</b>	<b>The Lord's chosen servant</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Peter 5:6-11</b>	<b>Tending the flock of God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 31:6-8</b>	<b>Joshua becomes Moses' successor</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 22:25-31</b>	<b>A vow of thanksgiving</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 15:9-17</b>	<b>Love one another</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.*

**1 John 4:18 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Where True Charity and  
Love Abide*



### 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:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.



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