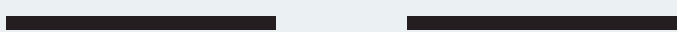




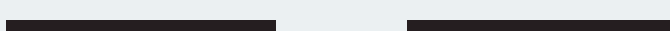
Love Never Ends: Being the Body of Christ

# Third Sunday after the Ep



## PARYER

"God, let us  
be one with  
you. And in  
you, be one  
body of  
Christ  
together."



# GATHERING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP  
GOD, THE LIVING GOD,

**All: Who calls prophets and teachers  
to bear witness.**

ONE: WE HAVE COME TO PRAISE  
GOD, THE ALMIGHTY GOD,

**All: Who answers the forces of  
hatred and hurt with the power of  
grace.**

ONE: WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP  
GOD, ALL-GRACIOUS GOD,

**All: Who chooses even you and me,  
to receive and carry the Word of life  
and hope. All glory to God!**

TFWS.2236

# GATHER US IN

1. HERE IN THIS PLACE  
NEW LIGHT IS STREAMING,  
NOW IS THE DARKNESS  
VANISHED AWAY,

SEE IN THIS SPACE  
OUR FEARS AND OUR  
DREAMINGS,  
BROUGHT HERE TO YOU  
IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DAY.

GATHER US IN  
THE LOST AND FORSAKEN,  
GATHER US IN  
THE BLIND AND THE LAME;

CALL TO US NOW,  
AND WE SHALL AWAKEN,  
WE SHALL ARISE  
AT THE SOUND OF OUR NAME.

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# GATHER US IN

2. WE ARE THE YOUNG  
OUR LIVES ARE A MYSTERY,  
WE ARE THE OLD  
WHO YEARN FOR YOUR FACE,

WE HAVE BEEN SUNG  
THROUGHOUT ALL OF HISTORY,  
CALLED TO BE LIGHT  
TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.

GATHER US IN  
THE RICH AND THE HAUGHTY,  
GATHER US IN  
THE PROUD AND THE STRONG;

GIVE US A HEART  
SO MEEK AND SO LOWLY,  
GIVE US THE COURAGE  
TO ENTER THE SONG.

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TFWS.2236

# GATHER US IN

3. HERE WE WILL TAKE  
THE WINE AND THE WATER,  
HERE WE WILL TAKE  
THE BREAD OF NEW BIRTH,

HERE YOU SHALL CALL  
YOUR SONS AND  
YOUR DAUGHTERS,  
CALL US ANEW  
TO BE SALT FOR THE EARTH.

GIVE US TO DRINK  
THE WINE OF COMPASSION,  
GIVE US TO EAT  
THE BREAD THAT IS YOU;

NOURISH US WELL,  
AND TEACH US TO FASHION  
LIVES THAT ARE HOLY  
AND HEARTS THAT ARE TRUE.

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TFWS.2236

# GATHER US IN

4. NOT IN THE DARK  
OF BUILDINGS CONFINING,  
NOT IN SOME HEAVEN,  
LIGHT-YEARS AWAY,

BUT HERE IN THIS PLACE  
THE NEW LIGHT IS SHINING,  
NOW IS THE KINGDOM,  
NOW IS THE DAY.

GATHER US IN  
AND HOLD US FOREVER,  
GATHER US IN  
AND MAKE US YOUR OWN;

GATHER US IN  
ALL PEOPLES TOGETHER,  
FIRE OF LOVE  
IN OUR FLESH AND OUR BONE.

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TFWS.2025

# AS THE DEER

AS THE DEER  
PANTS FOR THE WATER,  
SO MY SOUL LONGS AFTER YOU.  
YOU ALONE  
ARE MY HEART'S DESIRE,  
AND I LONG TO WORSHIP YOU.

YOU ALONE ARE MY STRENGTH,  
MY SHIELD;  
TO YOU ALONE  
MAY MY SPIRIT YIELD.  
YOU ALONE ARE MY  
HEART'S DESIRE,  
AND I LONG TO WORSHIP YOU.

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TFWS.2223

**THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE  
CHRISTIANS BY  
OUR LOVE**

1. WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT,  
WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD,  
WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT,  
WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD,

AND WE PRAY  
THAT ALL UNITY  
MAY ONE DAY  
BE RESTORED:

AND THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
BY OUR LOVE, BY OUR LOVE;  
YES, THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
BY OUR LOVE.

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**THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE  
CHRISTIANS BY  
OUR LOVE**

2. WE WILL WALK  
WITH EACH OTHER,  
WE WILL WALK HAND IN HAND,  
WE WILL WALK  
WITH EACH OTHER,  
WE WILL WALK HAND IN HAND,

AND TOGETHER  
WE'LL SPREAD THE NEWS  
THAT GOD IS  
IN OUR LAND:

AND THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
BY OUR LOVE, BY OUR LOVE;  
YES, THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
BY OUR LOVE.

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TFWS.2223

**THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE  
CHRISTIANS BY  
OUR LOVE**

3. WE WILL WORK  
WITH EACH OTHER,  
WE WILL WORK SIDE BY SIDE,  
WE WILL WORK  
WITH EACH OTHER,  
WE WILL WORK SIDE BY SIDE,

AND WE'LL GUARD  
HUMAN DIGNITY  
AND SAVE  
HUMAN PRIDE:

AND THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
BY OUR LOVE, BY OUR LOVE;  
YES, THEY'LL KNOW  
WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
BY OUR LOVE.

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## SCRIPTURE READING

### **Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10**

By the time the seventh month arrived, the People of Israel were settled in their towns. Then all the people gathered as one person in the town square in front of the Water Gate and asked the scholar Ezra to bring the Book of The Revelation of Moses that God had commanded for Israel. Ezra opened the book. Every eye was on him (he was standing on the raised platform) and as he opened the book everyone stood. Then Ezra praised God, the great God, and all the people responded, “Oh Yes! Yes!” with hands raised high. And then they fell to their knees in worship of God, their faces to the ground.

## SCRIPTURE READING

All Levites, explained The Revelation while people stood, listening respectfully. They translated the Book of The Revelation of God so the people could understand it and then explained the reading.

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2005), Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

## SCRIPTURE READING

### 1 Corinthians 12:12–31

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said goodbye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.)

## SCRIPTURE READING

Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive. I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body?

## SCRIPTURE READING

If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"?



## SCRIPTURE READING

As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the “lower” the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it’s a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn’t you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2005), 1 Corinthians 12:12–31

## GOSPEL READING

### Luke 4:14–21

Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. He taught in their meeting places to everyone's acclaim and pleasure. He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

"God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!"

## GOSPEL READING

to announce, “This is God’s year to act!” He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, “You’ve just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place.”

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

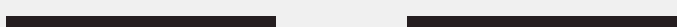
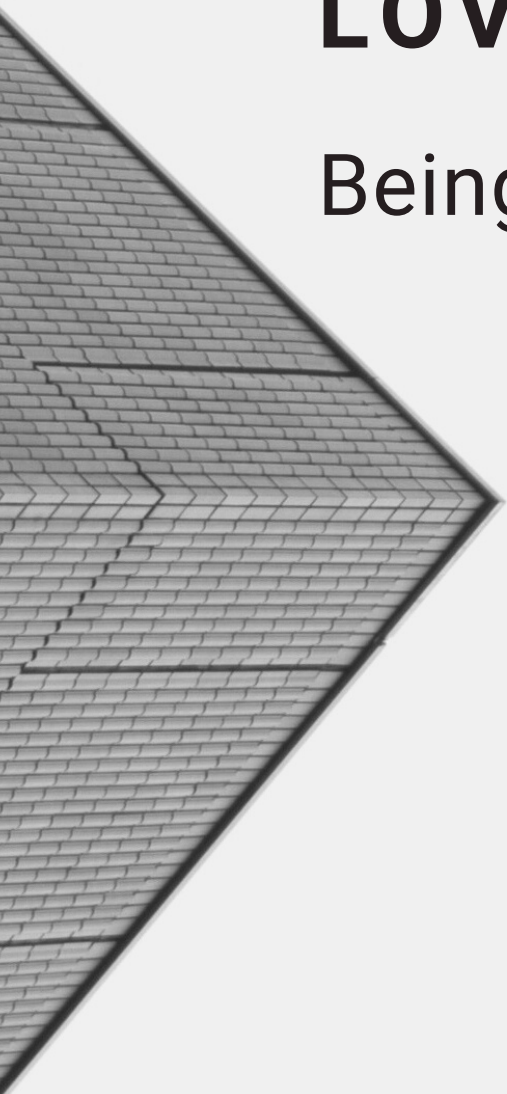
Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2005), Luke 4:14–21



# MESSAGE

**LOVE NEVER ENDS:**

Being the Body of Christ!



## PARYER

"Spirit of the living God, we praise and adore you for empowering us to claim membership of the body of Christ, a gift received through the fullness of your grace. Empower us anew, we pray, with tongues of fire and hearts of love to proclaim the reconciling word among people. Remind us that we are all members of the one body and if one member suffers, we all suffer.

## PARYER

May we, as the body of Christ in this place, be the best evidence of your love by declaring and witnessing to this as the year of the Lord's favour for all people. We give thanks that all of us are Christ's body, and rejoice in each one being a part of it. Accept our adoration and praise for these great gifts, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen."

W&S.3071

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR GOD IN HEAVEN,  
HOLY IS YOUR NAME,  
YOUR REIGN COME,  
YOUR WILL DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY  
BREAD,  
AND HELP US FORGIVE,  
AS WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.

IN THE TIME OF TRIAL  
LEAD US INTO LIGHT,  
FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM,  
AND THE POWER,  
AND THE GLORY, FOREVER.  
OUR GOD, IN HEAVEN,  
HOLY IS YOUR NAME,  
HOLY IS YOUR NAME.

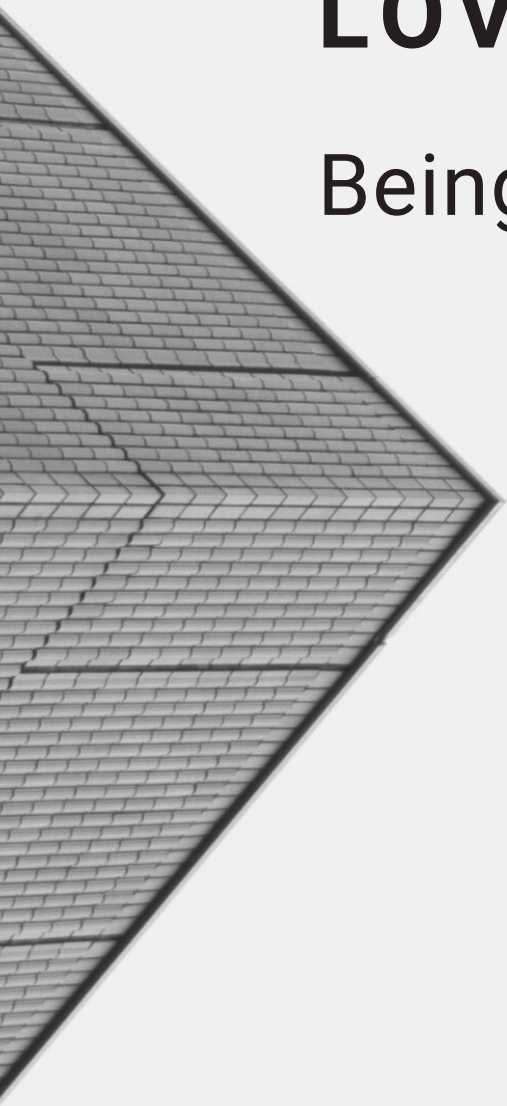
Matt. 6:9-13 adapt. by Mark Miller and Laurie Zelman



# SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

**LOVE NEVER ENDS:**

Being the Body of Christ!





**WE WOULD LOVE TO  
HEAR FROM YOU!**

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# **CONTACT US**

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