

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (v10)

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, & in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life & death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- John 12:20-33

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, & said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went & told Andrew; then Andrew & Philip went & told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth & dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, & those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, & where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>Now my soul is troubled. & what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, & I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it & said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare & contrast vv25-27, esp. v27, with Jesus’ Garden of Gethsemane prayer (*Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46*). What point is St. John trying to make by including this prayer at this point in his story? (review 12:1, 12-15, 13:1 for context) See *John 2:4, 7:32-39, 8:12-29, 10:11-38, 13:31-38, 19:10-11*
2. Compare & contrast v25 & its analogs (*Matthew 10:39, 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:23-24, 17:33; check surrounding verses for setting & context*). In how many different settings does Jesus say this? How do his varied uses add depth to his meaning? See also *Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; make sure to use your Bible’s study notes*.

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Read vv27-36a; how do they connect to last’s week’s gospel reading 3:14-21? How does this give you a sense of urgency as you consider how you’re joining Jesus in his mission, walking with him in the light? See *Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*
4. Carrying over from last week: The 10 Commandments serve us to reflect quietly on one’s own behavior to shine God’s light into our darkness (*1 Peter 2:9*). Here’s a classic model for that created by Rev. Edward Naumann < [bit.ly/3kOZ7tk](http://bit.ly/3kOZ7tk) > (your [Small Catechism](#) may include another). Try it 3x this week & take what you find in your life to Confession & Absolution on Sunday. **This week pay special attention to things you indulge in, including life’s sinful pleasures.** See *SC: Confession/Office of the Keys*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Folks misunderstand Jesus all the time, in the Bible & in everyday life (v34). Most common today is probably thinking that his purpose was to teach us by example. Usually, his lesson is imagined as how to live the Golden Rule (*Matthew 7:12*). How does traditional, orthodox, biblical worship show & tell otherwise? See *Small & Large Catechisms: Creed; hint- #4 above; SC, LC available* <[bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)>
6. Despite any misunderstandings, folks still want to see Jesus (v21), to be in his living presence. Where in your life & your congregation’s life together would you take them? What would you show & tell them? Remember Jesus’ words in *15:12-17*.

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Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Series: God Keeps His Promises

03.21.21  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Promise of Life  
*Sometimes living is sacrificed now for more life later.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Those who love their life lose it, & those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (v25)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth & dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

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