

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

An Order for Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach (1685-1759)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

P We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C Amen

***HYMN We Know That Christ Is Raised**

**We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!**

**We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!**

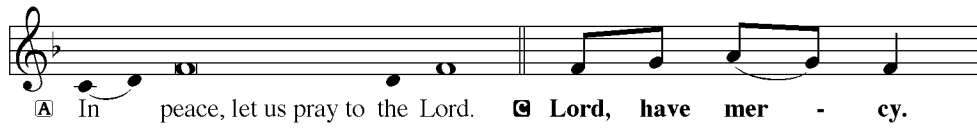
Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Tune: ENGLEBERG

***GREETING**

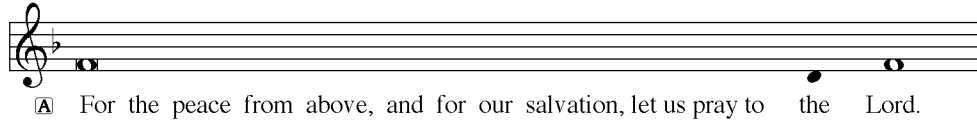
**P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

C And also with you.

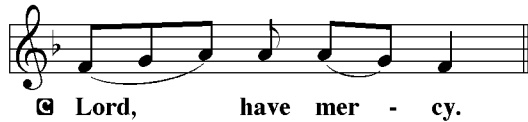
*KYRIE



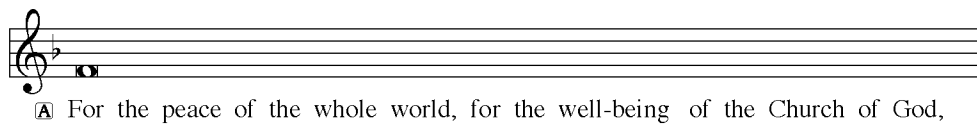
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



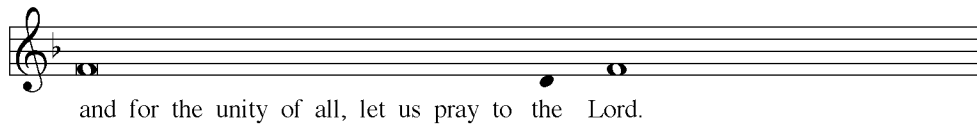
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



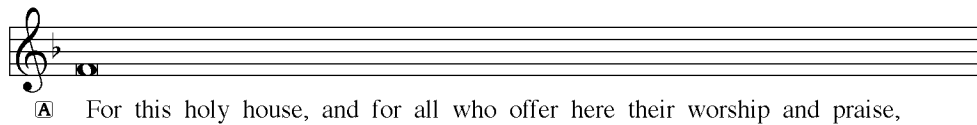
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



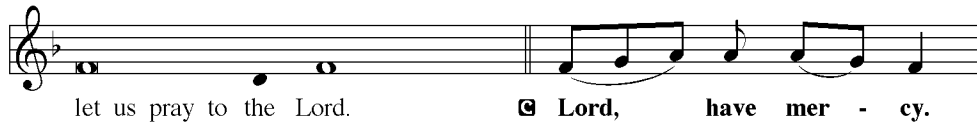
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



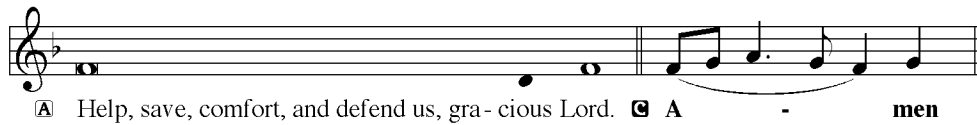
G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

***THIS
IS THE
FEAST**

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Acts 8:26-40

26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31

25From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

26The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

28For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations.

29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

30Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 John 4:7-21

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this

is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There 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. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

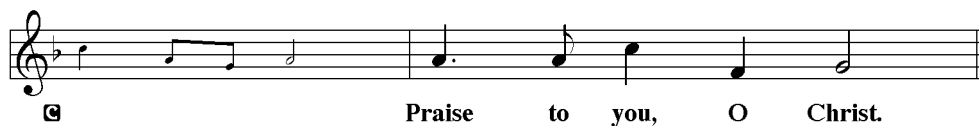
***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John15:1-8**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I 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. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith:

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

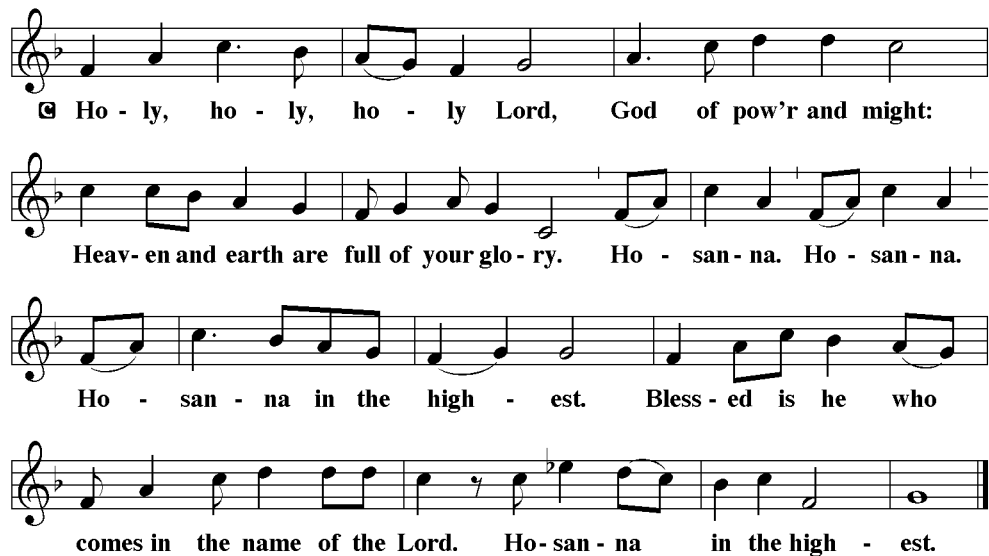
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

C **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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

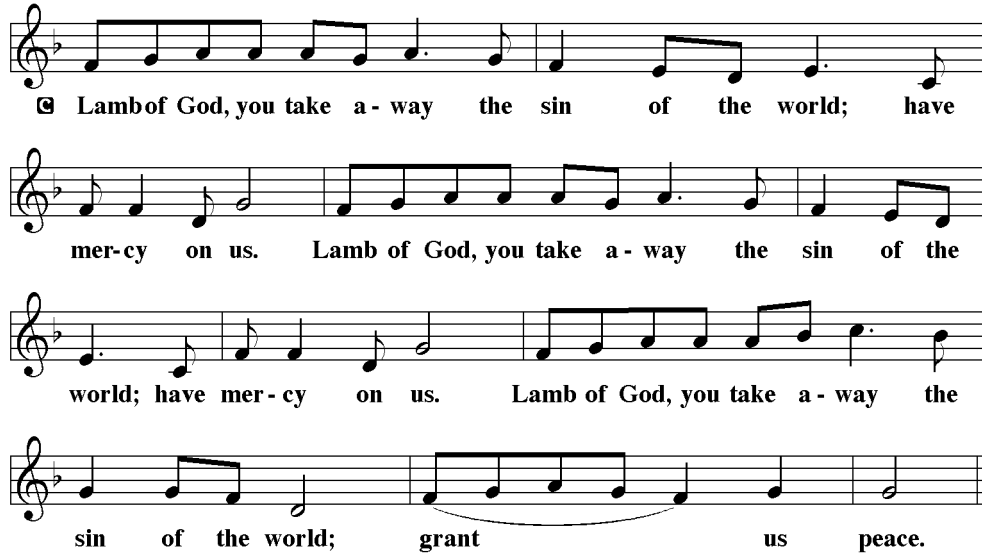
P The risen Christ invites us to this table.

Come, eat and be satisfied.

C **Amen**

THE COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE BLESSING

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen

*HYMN All Are Welcome

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,**

**a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:**

Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Tune: TWO OAKS

***DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in C, Vivace* John Alcock (1715-1806)

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, the family of Gladys Knauss.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTORS 8 am, Drew Haussmann/10:30 am, Phil Thomas

CANTOR/SONG LEADER (10:30 am) Ray Huff

ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: May 2

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Matt Fortin--Captain: Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God:

In loving memory of our mother, Carol Smith, and in honor of our mother Shirley Kinney by the Kinneys.

In loving memory of Robert O. Miller by Bill Miller, Dick Miller and Barb Cooley.

Our Stewardship (4/25-4/26, 2021)

Regular Offering	\$2,386.00
Plate Offering	\$ 30.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 20.00
Geraniums	\$ 170.00
Sunday School	\$ 6.00
Capital Fund	\$ 50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 60.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 15.00

GRAND TOTAL **\$2, 737.00**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday, May 23, 2021 is the Day of Pentecost and this year we look

forward to having red geraniums grace our sanctuary. Please use the enclosed envelope to order your plants, enclosing payment at this time. The suggested donation amount is \$5.00 per geranium and deadline for ordering is Sunday, May 9th. Geraniums not picked up after the 10:30 service will be planted around St. Mark's property.

And, don't forget to wear an article of red clothing to worship on that Sunday (the Day of Pentecost, May 23). Red is the color associated with the Holy Spirit!

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

COMEMMORATIONS

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Saturday, May 8, 2021

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303

Saturday, May 8, 2021

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor, a Christian, died for his faith at Milan.