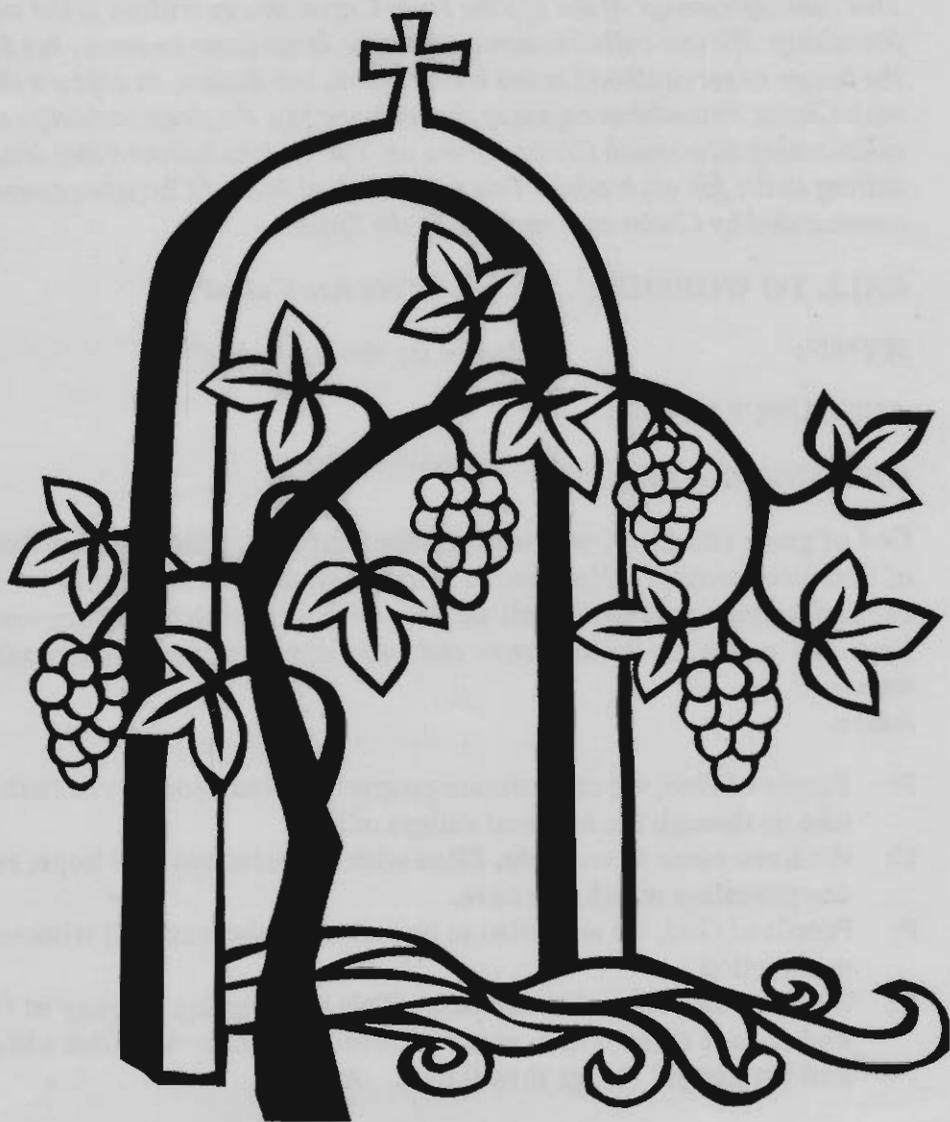


A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a lush green forest. In the background, there are dark, forested mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a rocky riverbank with some green grass and a small tree on the left.

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY!**

May 13th, 2012  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day



# Sunday, May 13, 2012 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Praise Team

### INTRODUCTION

*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*



**CALL TO WORSHIP:**                    **“We Are Called”**

**HYMN:**                                **“Down By the Riverside”**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and glory, we thank you for your love, which reaches from the beginning of time into eternity. We come in worship, wanting to sense your love in everyday life and to share your love in all we do. Give us a fresh beginning—new place to start. Give us hope for tomorrow and every day as we journey through our faith together.  
**Amen.**

**P:** People of God, we are a chosen people called to a journey of faith which will take us through the hills and valleys of life.

**C:** **We have come to worship, filled with expectations and hope, ready to live out the promises which are ours.**

**P:** People of God, we are called to be bearers of the truth and witnesses of the resurrection.

**C:** **We come to respond to the call. This challenging journey of faith is ours and we are filled with a sense of adventure, knowing God will do amazing and wonderful things through us. Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**God, today we pause to confess our shortcomings in life and love. We want to live life to the fullest, but we always seem to become disillusioned or disappointed. We want to have deep, meaningful relationships, but we seem to short circuit those we love with our own selfishness. God, we need the power to change, but we realize now we cannot do it on our own. We are sinful. We fall short of the mark. We ask for your forgiveness.**

The God of all creation has entered our human existence in the person of Jesus Christ. Through him, our sinful condition has been given new possibilities of faith and life. By his death and resurrection, the price of our sin has been paid in full and we stand before God as new people. The Holy Spirit is present with us and in us to give us power to live out this new life. By the Spirit we have life. Praise God.

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

**P:** We come in the name of the God who created us, in the name of the Son who has given us new life, and in the name of the Spirit who brings unity and oneness.

**C:** **Let us worship God, the Creator, Son and Holy Spirit. May our love for one another be a reflection of the true love of God in Jesus Christ.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM:**                   **“In the Garden”**

## FIRST READING: 1 John 5:1–6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## PSALM: Psalm 98

*Refrain: Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)*

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the  
LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. **R**

## **GOSPEL: John 15:9–17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## **SERMON**

**OFFERING HYMN:**           **“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky # 752 WOV**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**All we have, all we are, and all we hope to be belongs to you, God. We offer our gifts for use in your service. Receive these gifts and may they be used to further the work of your church on earth. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Enlivened in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

*A time for silent prayer.*

Eternal, loving God, your people have been born anew by water and the Holy Spirit. Renew us always through your forgiveness, and use us to lead others to living waters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All creation springs to life in response to your Word. Remember your preserving and redeeming covenant with creation, and guide us to care for all you have made. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring about justice and peace through your people. Support those who work for peace among nations and peoples. Reveal your self-giving love in their actions and words. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are victorious over sin, death, and all that separates us from you. Draw near to all who feel alone in illness or crisis (*especially*). Fill them with your healing presence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to mothers and all who care for children, that your motherly love enfold them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

The saints rejoice in being your children through Jesus Christ. Give us all a child-like faith that conquers fear and mistrust, and bind your family together in eternal covenant. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you his peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: As You Go On Your Way

**CLOSING HYMN: “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” # 784 WOV**

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**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community.*

*We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 13, 2012**

### **Widening Our Circles of Love**

In this week's gospel Jesus again reminds us to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). If we had to sum up the whole of the New Testament, we could do it this way: love God, and love one another with as much intensity as we love God. Jesus doesn't present us a choice in the matter. We're commanded to love one another as deeply as we love God.

Most of us need to widen our circle of love. Overall, we probably do a good job of loving our families. After all, we've got a vested interest in treating each other well. We likely do a reasonable job of loving—or at least appreciating—the people we work with, who constitute a different kind of family. We often spend more time with them than with our family members; clearly it's smart to treat them well.

But what about people on the other side of the planet? What about those in our communities who are invisible for one reason or another? Martin Luther reminds us that faith moves the feet. In other words, we need to think about our actions, not just attitudes. What would someone full of love do in this or that trying situation? What would Jesus do when he learned that someone was hungry, or when the sick mother of a friend needed a ride to the clinic?

You don't have to do it all by yourself. Through our faith communities, we can show love by working with the poor and dispossessed in ways that we can't do alone. For example, we can support organizations which have demonstrated that they can meet those needs quickly and efficiently.

The ways we widen our circles of love are as varied as we are. What's important is that we shine bright with God's love.

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## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

Music: Praise Team  
Greeters: Pat & Jerry Becker  
Ushers: 8:30 Don & Donna Myhre, 10:00 Tom & Gloria Christensen  
Lectors: 8:30 Sandy Pullen, 10:00 Darlene Christensen  
Coffee Servers: Warren & Gale Rolek, Bill & Cheri Johnson, Marilyn Andrews

## **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (5/6/12)**

Attendance: 8:30 – 130                      10:00 – 63  
Offering: \$ 4, 852.00                      Building Fund: \$ 1,000.00  
Blessing Box: \$ 239.24

**\$ 3,846.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.**

**\$ 380.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.**

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> THRU MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

Mon., May 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., May 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	Council meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., May 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	WIC
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., May 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers (Card Games & Dominoes)
Sat., May 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	New Members Orientation
	5:00 p.m.	Sat. Eve. Worship Service

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** we are receiving **new members**. Please extend a Bethesda welcome to all the new members and to everyone who enters our doors. If you wish to become a member or associate member of Bethesda, please contact Pastor Jim. There will be an orientation meeting for new members and their sponsors on Saturday morning, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

An Invitation to everyone to come join us on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. when **Sheriff Scott Turner will be the featured speaker**. His topic will include safety issues, fraud, etc. especially those items regarding seniors. **Everyone welcome**. Come join us.

**Thanks for all the cards, money, stamps and gifts. Thank you all and God Bless. It was a wonderful party. Irene Long.**

Bethesda Lutheran, **thank you for your generous donation of eyeglasses**. These go to the Lions Eye Bank at the University of Minnesota. I apologize for not having a collection box, but I will get you one and bring it to you when it comes. Thanks again. **Tom Bruss, Aitkin Lions.**

**THANK YOU** to all those who helped with jelly making. We did a record 678 jars.

The annual "Syttende Mai" Smorgasbord will be held Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Milaca Trinity Lutheran Church. Price: \$9.00. Poster on Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board.

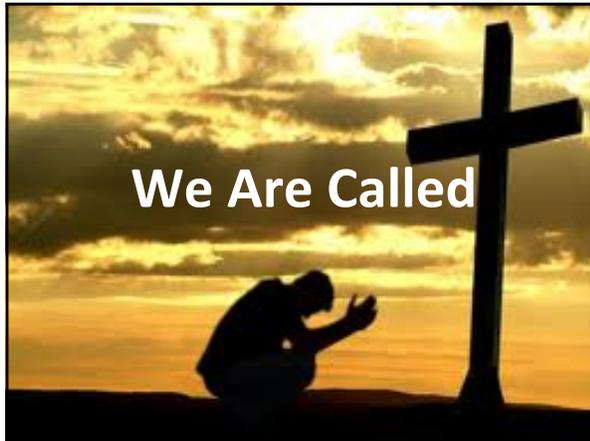
Our **Saturday Evening Worship Services** began yesterday (May 12<sup>th</sup>) at 5:00 p.m. and will continue every Saturday throughout the Summer.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**June 18-22** Vacation Bible School

**June 30-July 1** Independence Day Worship with John Koziol, Jr.

**July 20** Beef and Corn Feed



**We are called**  
(we are called)  
**We are claimed**  
(we are claimed)  
**We are loved**  
(we are loved)

**By the holy name**

**We are healed**  
(We are healed)  
**We are whole**  
(We are whole)

**The Savior**  
ransomed our souls

**And we're singing**

**Glory Glory Glory**  
**Hal-le-lu-jah**

**Glory Gloria**  
**Oh Oh Oh**

**Glory Glory Glory**  
**Hal-le-lu-jah**

**Glory Gloria**

**We are called**  
(we are called)  
**We are claimed**  
(we are claimed)  
**We are loved**  
(we are loved)

By the holy name

**We are healed**  
(We are healed)  
**We are whole**  
(We are whole)

The Savior  
ransomed our souls  
  
And we're singing

Glory Glory Glory  
Hal-le-lu-jah

Glory Gloria  
Oh Oh Oh

Glory Glory Glory  
Hal-le-lu-jah  
  
Glory Gloria

**We are here**  
(we are here)  
**To proclaim**  
(to proclaim)  
**God is here**  
(God is here)

**Calls us each by name**

**We are here**  
(we are here)  
**To give praise**  
(to give praise)

**The love of God  
will not change**

**And we're singing**

**Glory Glory Glory  
Hal-le-lu-jah**

**Glory Gloria  
Oh Oh Oh**

**Glory Glory Glory  
Hal-le-lu-jah**

**Glory Gloria**

**Glory Glory Glory  
Hal-le-lu-jah**

**Glory Gloria  
Oh Oh Oh**

**Glory Glory Glory  
Hal-le-lu-jah**

**Glory Gloria  
Glory Gloria  
Glory Gloria**

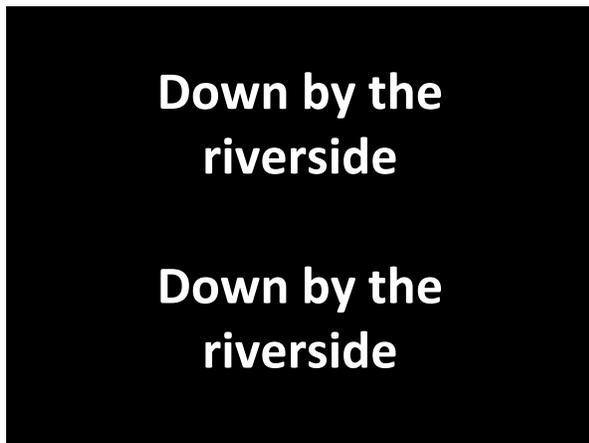
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**Down by  
The  
Riverside**



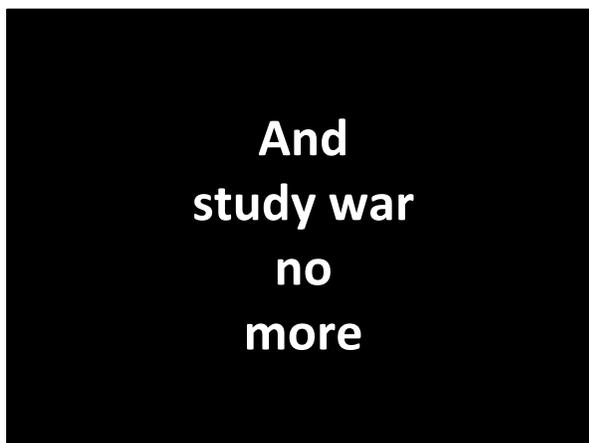
**I'm gonna  
lay down my  
burden  
Down by the  
riverside**



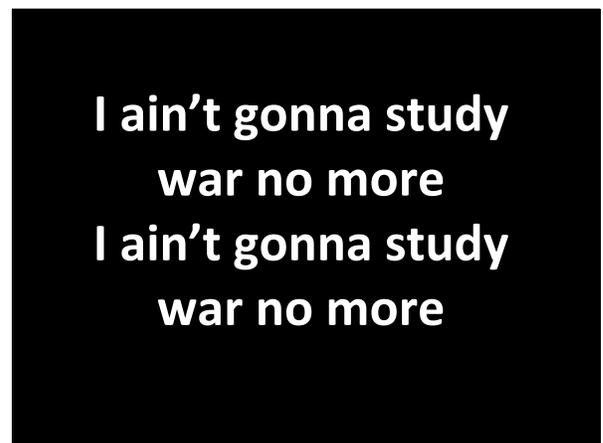
**Down by the  
riverside  
Down by the  
riverside**



**I'm gonna  
lay down my  
burden  
Down by the  
riverside**



**And  
study war  
no  
more**



**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**Gonna lay down  
my sword and  
shield**

**Down by the  
riverside**

**Down by the  
riverside**

**Down by the  
riverside**

**Gonna lay down  
my sword and  
shield**

**Down by the  
riverside**

**And  
study war  
no  
more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**Gonna put on  
my long white  
robe,  
down by the  
riverside**

**Down by the  
riverside  
Down by the  
riverside**

**Gonna put on  
my long white  
robe,  
down by the  
riverside**

**And  
study war  
no  
more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**Gonna talk  
with the  
Prince of Peace  
Down by the  
riverside**

**Down by the  
riverside  
Down by the  
riverside**

**Gonna talk  
with the  
Prince of Peace  
Down by the  
riverside**

**And  
study war  
no  
more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

**I ain't gonna study  
war no more  
I ain't gonna study  
war no more**

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**I come to  
the garden alone  
While the dew  
is still on  
the roses**

**And the voice  
I hear  
falling on my ear  
The son of God  
Discloses.....**

**And..... He.....  
walks with me  
And He  
talks with me  
And He tells me  
I am his own**

**And the joy  
we share  
as we tarry there  
none other  
has ever  
known**

**He speaks  
and the sound  
of his voice  
Is so sweet  
the birds hush their  
singing**

**And the melody  
That He gave  
to me  
Within my  
heart is  
Ringing.....**

**And..... He.....  
walks with me  
And He  
talks with me  
And He tells me  
I am his own**

**And the joy  
we share  
as we tarry there  
none other  
has ever  
known**

**I'd stay  
in the garden  
with Him  
Though the night  
around me  
be falling**

**But He bids  
me go  
in the voice  
of woe  
His voice to me is  
calling.....**

**And..... He.....  
walks with me  
And He  
talks with me  
And He tells me  
I am his own**

**And the joy  
we share  
as we tarry there  
none other  
has ever  
known**

**And the joy we share  
as we tarry there  
none other  
has ever  
known**

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**I the Lord  
of sea and sky,  
I have heard  
my people cry.**

**All who dwell  
in deepest sin  
my hand will save**

**I who made  
the stars of night,  
I will make  
their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear  
my light to them?  
Whom shall  
I send?**

**Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard  
you calling  
in the night**

**I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold  
your people  
in my heart.**

**I the Lord  
of snow and rain,  
I have borne my  
people's pain.**

**I have wept  
for love  
of them,  
they turn away.**

**I will break  
their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts  
for love alone.**

**I will speak  
my word  
to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard  
you calling  
in the night**

**I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold  
your people  
in my heart.**

**I the Lord  
of wind and flame,  
I will tend  
the poor and lame**

**I will set  
a feast for them.  
My hand will save.**

**Finest bread  
I will provide  
till their hearts  
be satisfied**

**I will give  
my life to them.  
Whom shall  
I send?**

**Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard  
you calling  
in the night**

**I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold  
your people  
in my heart.**

**I will hold  
your people  
in my  
heart**

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**As you go  
on your way may  
God go with you.  
May he go before you  
to show  
you the way.**

**May he go behind you  
to encourage you.  
Beside you to be-friend  
you,  
Above you to watch  
over ,**

**Within you  
to give you peace.**

**As you go  
on your way may  
God go with you.  
May he go before you  
to show  
you the way.**

**May he go behind you  
to encourage you.  
Beside you to be-friend  
you,  
Above you to watch  
over ,**

**Within you  
to give you peace.**

**Within you  
to give you peace.**

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Lakeshore



**You, have come  
down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither,  
the wise nor  
the wealthy**

**But only asking,  
for me to follow**

**Sweet Lord, you have  
looked into my eyes**

**Kindly smiling,  
you've called out my  
name**

**On the sand I,  
have abandoned my  
small boat**

**Now with you,  
I will seek other seas**

**You,  
know full well  
what I have Lord  
Neither treasure,  
nor weapons for  
conquest**

**Just these my fish nets,  
and will for working**

**Sweet Lord,  
you have looked  
into my eyes**

**Kindly smiling,  
you've called out my  
name**

**On the sand I,  
have abandoned my  
small boat**

**Now with you,  
I will seek other seas**

**You,  
need my hands  
my exhaustion  
Working love for,  
the rest of  
the weary**

**A love that's willing,  
to go on loving**

**Sweet Lord,  
you have looked  
into my eyes**

**Kindly smiling,  
you've called out my  
name**

**On the sand I,  
have abandoned my  
small boat**

**Now with you,  
I will seek other seas**

**You, who have fished  
other waters  
You the longing, of souls  
that are yearning  
O loving friend you,  
have come to call me**

**Sweet Lord,  
you have looked  
into my eyes  
Kindly smiling,  
you've called out my  
name**

**On the sand I,  
have abandoned my  
small boat  
Now with you,  
I will seek other seas**

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