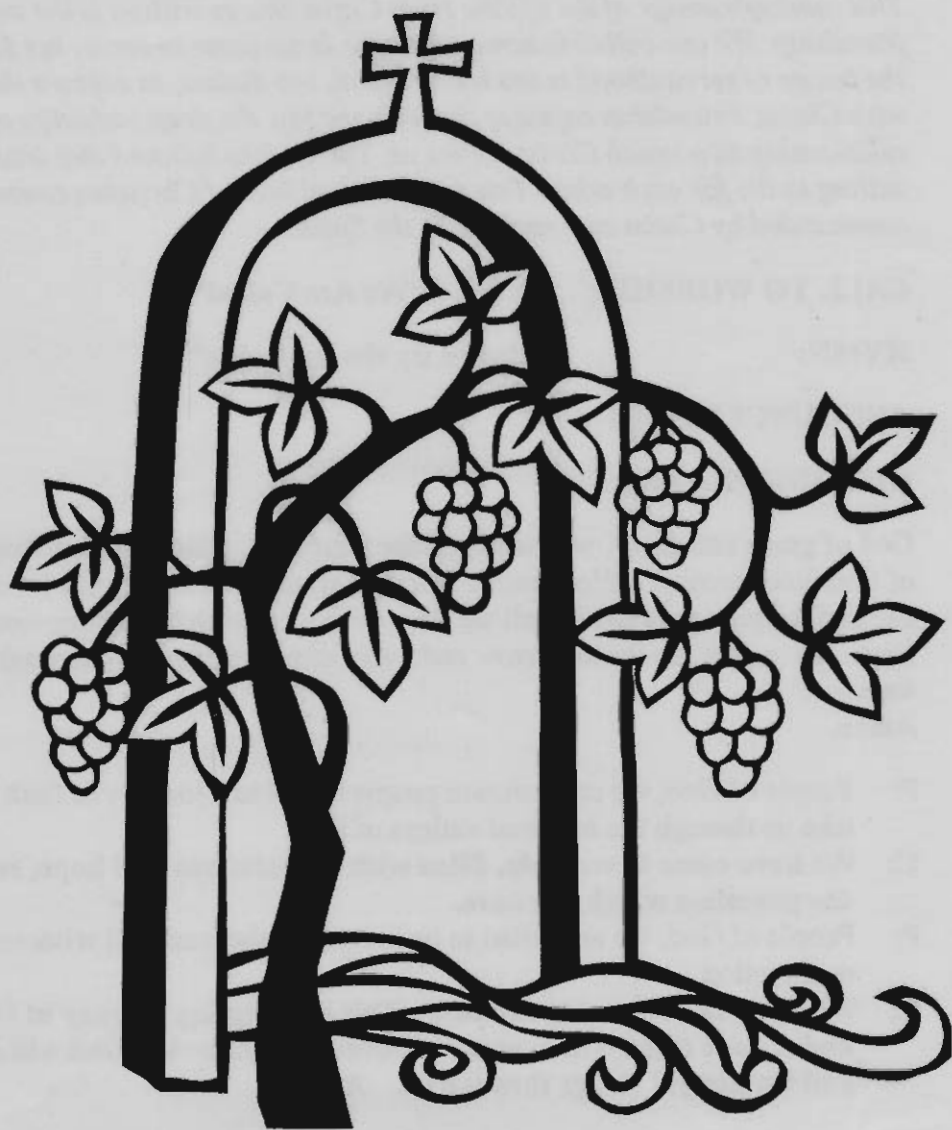


A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a lush green forest. In the background, there are rolling mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a rocky riverbank with some green grass and a small tree on the left.

**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

Church Web Site: 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 13TH, 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 13TH THRU MAY 19TH, 2012

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mon., May 14 th | 9:00 a.m. | Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's |
| | 7:00 p.m. | AA & Alanon |
| Tues., May 15 th | 8:00 a.m. | Council meeting |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Crafters |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Bells |
| Wed., May 16 th | 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 th | 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 th | 10:30 a.m. | New Members Orientation |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Sat. Eve. Worship Service |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next **Sunday, May 20th** 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 19th at 10:30 a.m.

An Invitation to everyone to come join us on Wednesday, May 16th 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 18th at Milaca Trinity Lutheran Church. Price: \$9.00. Poster on Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board.

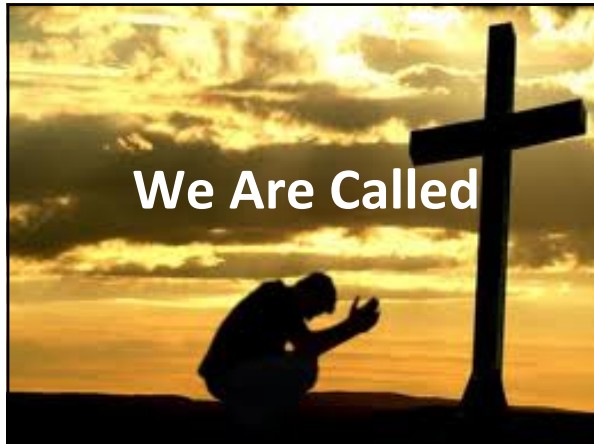
Our **Saturday Evening Worship Services** began yesterday (May 12th) at 5:00 p.m. and will continue every Saturday throughout the Summer.

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**

[Click here to return](#)



**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**

**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**

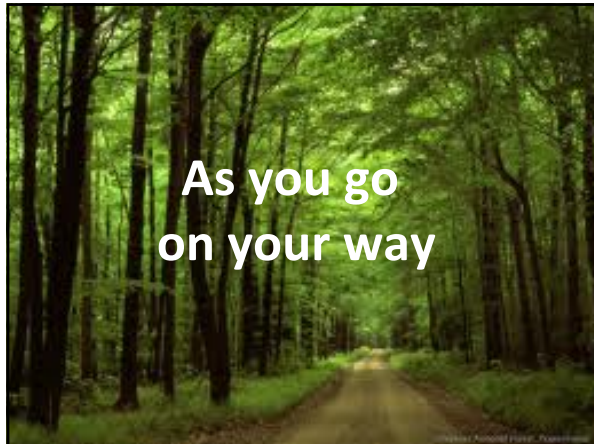
**I will give
my life to them.
Whom shall
I send?**

**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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