



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Love as He Loved: A Call to Faithful Discipleship”

Our Gospel Reading on this fifth Sunday of Easter brings us back to the time that Jesus spent His last supper with His disciples. It was the night when He would be handed over to death because of Judas' betrayal. How sad it was that at the moment when Jesus was talking about giving a new commandment to love one another as he had loved, his betrayer had left. He missed a very important moment that would probably be a life-changing moment for him. But for those who were left behind, indeed, it was a turning point in their lives, and they indeed love the Lord just as He had loved them. Their love for Jesus was testified by giving up their lives totally for their Master and the people they served. Indeed, Jesus' commandment to love one another as He had loved was not just a sentimental kind of love but a love of faithfulness and sacrifice, a total dedication to Him.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, it was characterized by love. He made the deaf hear, made the crippled walk, the blind see and the dead live. Not only that, He preached conversion, repentance, and salvation, but also walked this earth in pain and death. He experienced the gruesome way of dying but resurrected to manifest to all of us that God is all goodness, life, and love.

When we look at our world, we are torn apart by sin and darkness. Families are divided, nations are at war, extremism brings about death and destruction, and religious freedom is threatened. Homelessness grows, drugs proliferate, and racial discrimination persists are just some of the things that we know and realize day after day. And we ask, when will all this end?

Though it may seem gloomy and dark, there is a glimmering hope if we are to live every day as Jesus commands us, to love one another as He has loved. There is still light when we begin to forgive, when we become more generous to lift the lives of the poor and needy, and when we truly live our faith in Jesus, not only inside the church but also at home, in our workplace, and wherever we are.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, and with the election of Pope Leo XIV, we look beyond our call to be disciples of Jesus. We continue to realize that what truly matters in our journey of faith and life is adherence to Jesus' invitation, to love! Maybe we can start to show kindness and compassion even with small acts like listening to someone in need or offering encouragement to the downtrodden. Also, to forgive freely, serve others, love beyond boundaries, live generously, and practice empathy. When we love truly, we live fully, and hope becomes alive!

Your fellow pilgrim of hope,

Fr. Pascual