



CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

L: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING ...**AMEN.**

SENDING

GOSPEL MESSAGE: ARE YOU NEW HERE?

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells his followers (John 14:4), but they aren’t so sure. So he goes on, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), but they’re still confused. Finally, he asks, “Have I been with you all this time ... and you still do not know me?” (John 14:9). It’s as if he’s asking them, “Are you new here?”

They’ve had him all this time. They’ve watched him and listened to him and learned from him. But, suddenly, faced with the idea that he won’t always be there in quite the same way, it’s as if they remember nothing.

Yet, Jesus isn’t one of those teachers who says, “Do as I say, not as I do.” He lived his very life here on earth as a model for us, even now. Our road map to the place where he is going is to understand his words and actions, not only as *his* way, truth, and life, but as *our own* as well.

It’s as complicated as that, but it’s also that simple. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1), Jesus tells them. Indeed, road maps are meant to reassure us, by giving us direction and setting us on the right course.

He didn’t say it would be easy. He also didn’t tell this to any of them alone, and his words are intended for us to hear in community today as well. Living out our understandings of Jesus as the way, truth, and life is a collective act, not an individual one. We do this every time we gather in community, whether that’s a congregation, a parent-teacher organization, an extended family, or a neighborhood Buy Nothing group.

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells us. We might feel new here, but it turns out we’ve had the road map all along.

READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

Jesus said to the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."