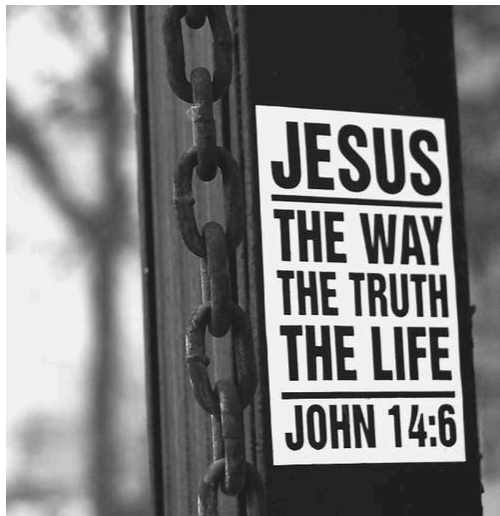


Fifth Sunday of Easter

Happy Mother's Day!



I can only imagine the amount of difficulty that Jesus must have stumbled across with the disciples as He shared the words in John 14 with them. These words must have confused, been difficult to hear, and even more difficult to comprehend. There is just no way to understand what Jesus was saying.

He says He loves them all. He tells them one will betray, the other will deny. He tells them He has to go somewhere they are not invited to attend. Hard words in the confusion of the moment.

We have the same feelings when the messages we receive get tossed. We think God is a great and gracious God, but that comes sorely to the test when our prayers don't get answered in the way we expected. If they even get answered. We struggle with the moment when it just doesn't add up. I get where the disciples must have felt. I have been bedside many times with folks who were sick, and we prayed, but the results seemed less optimistic than we all hoped.

To all of this, Jesus is there to assure, even reassure us since He has already told us that He is with us each and every step of "the Way." These words form the nickname for the early church, "The Way" which was code for being a follower of Jesus. Obviously, He was the bringer of salvation, the one and only way to find God and have that abundant life Jesus keeps talking about.

This side of heaven, we have a tough time having all the answers to all the questions we might have. I think even if we got those answers, it would force us to get even more questions that would need to be answered. Perhaps in the midst of the uncertainty, the unanswered prayer, the confusion and lack of clarity in any or all of our situations, we can understand this much-Jesus is there with and for us.

We cannot let the issues of any given moment overshadow what Jesus has done for us. He's not a machine we go to and punch a button and walk away with what we ordered. We need to trust in His Word, His promise, His actions, and His love. Those are the things the disciples were a lot closer to than we are, but they still are the things that define our relationship with Jesus, and in turn, with the Father who is in heaven. We are blessed in Jesus, and we pray the Holy Spirit gives us the grace to face each day in complete confidence.

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

This blessed Easter season is our celebration of the great work that Jesus had accomplish while here on earth. His care and concern for the lost, the disenfranchised, and the neglected of society points our attention to what Jesus truly felt important as He shared the good news that the Kingdom of God was made manifest in His work, His suffering, His death on the cross, and now, His resurrection. We allow too many things to distract our attention away from what Christ brought that first Easter, and all of the subsequent Easters we celebrate. For that, and for the many other times we let our Lord down, we make our confession this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, **Amen**

HYMN 235 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee 1+4

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): 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.

Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia.

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 7: 55-60

New Living Translation (NLT)

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"

Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

THE SECOND LESSON: Peter 2:2-10

New Living Translation (NLT)

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. As the Scriptures say,

"I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone."

And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

New Living Translation (NLT)

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.”

“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON “The Way”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 460 What a Friend We Have in Jesus 1+3

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION

HYMN 446 O Jesus, I Have Promised 1+4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Pastor will invite prayer requests at the beginning of our service, so simply share them at that time.

TO OUR GUESTS: Welcome! We are happy that you are here, and we hope you have felt comfortable since you arrived. You are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper this day as God's sign of our redemption, His presence among us, and His promise to come again.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE Pastor Kosec's resignation letter was sent to the congregational emails on record this past Wednesday to update everyone as to what has taken place. Following worship this morning, Dean Carson will update the status of the Call Committee, as they have received the resignation of Pastor Kosec and have already begun the search for OSLC's next pastor. There will be a short question and answer session (we remember it is Mother's Day) at that time.

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Bible Study: Times as announced

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