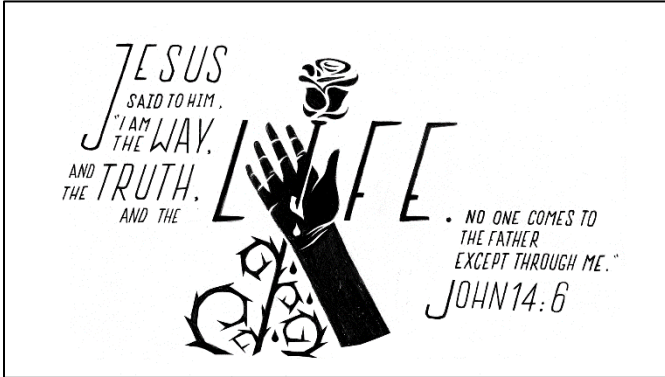


Victorious!

Victory on the Only Path to Heaven

The Fifth Sunday in Easter

Greetings in the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, the Life...



The theme as you worship: Change was coming for Jesus' disciples – Jesus' death, his ascension back to heaven. Jesus tells them as much. But Jesus wanted them to look beyond this world where everything changes. Today he points them to where true joy is found and how to get there. Change is all around us. Amidst all the changes in our world, we pray that God guides us to see that there is one thing we can count on – Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Of course, it is Mother's Day. We thank God for the love of mothers. God compares his love for us to that of a mother's love for her children, he comforts as only a mother can for a little child. A Happy Mother's Day to all mothers worshipping with us today. We will open worship today with Proverbs for Mother's Day and then pray for all mothers toward the end of worship.

Announcements: We continue to work on when and where to resume worship, God willing, it will be very soon. For now, we thank God for technology that has allowed us to continue worshipping and drawing strength from God's Word.

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion I will have office hours available when you can receive communion Tuesday thru Thursday mid-day.

There is an opportunity to see and talk with fellow believers. There will be a live, online Bible Study at 11:15 AM EST this Sunday morning. If you haven't already, check it out, you can join in and just listen in or join the conversation. On our website under Peace Membership Documents, if you haven't found it already, there is a study guide under Membership Documents.

PROVERBS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

M: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge

C: The fool despises wisdom and knowledge

M: Listen, my son, to your father's instruction

C: And do not forsake your mother's teaching.

M: They will be a garland to grace your head

C: And a chain to adorn your neck.

M: A wise son brings joy to his father,

- C: But a foolish son grief to his mother.**
- M:** The rod of correction imparts wisdom
- C: But a child left to itself disgraces its mother.**
- M:** Listen to your father, who gave you life,
- C: And do not despise your mother when she is old**
- M:** Buy the truth and do not sell it;
- C: Get wisdom, discipline and understanding.**
- M:** May your father and mother be glad;
- C: May she who gave you birth rejoice.**

CONFESSIO

- M:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and into eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

ABSOLUTION

- M:** God, our heavenly father has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY, KYRIE¹

- M:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well-being of people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C: Christ, have mercy.**
- M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**

¹ Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

SONG

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (v.1-3)

♪ I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!

2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save.
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

3 He lives to bless me with his love;
He lives to plead for me above.
He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:1-12

All prophecies find their fulfillment in Jesus. We eagerly search the Scriptures to see Jesus, like the Bereans.

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. ⁴Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

⁵But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus."

⁸When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

In Berea

¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. ²

THE SECOND LESSON

I Peter 2:4-10

Jesus is the Living Stone, and he builds his church with us, his living stones, all to serve and honor him.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house ^c to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, and

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

The Gospel according to John, chapter 14.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

² [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ac 17:1–12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. ³

M: This is the gospel of the Lord.

SONG

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

♪ Refrain

**Do not let your hearts be troubled;
have faith in God and faith in me.
I will go forth to prepare a place for you;
then I’ll come back to take you with me,
that where I am, you may also be.**

**1 In God’s house there are many places
For you alone to dwell in safety.
You know the way to where I’ll lead you;
If you are lost, I will show the way.**

Refrain

**2 I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life;
Only through me can you know what I know.
If you knew me, you would know the Father;
If you see me, you see your God.**

Refrain

**3 The words I speak are not only of myself;
It is your God who lives within me.
If you believe that your God and I are one,
I will provide when you call my name.**

Refrain

Text: John 14:1-3,6,7,10-14; alt. David Haas, b. 1957

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THE MESSAGE

John 14:1-12

Theme: *Victorious on the Only Path to Heaven*

I’m guessing it has happened to you before. You start getting used to that new technology and just as you are starting to get used to used it, it’s gone, it is put on the shelf. Something new replaces the “old”. Now you are faced with giving up

³ [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 14:1–14). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

or learning something new to replace. Technology changes rapidly. As soon as you latch on to one way of doing things, you can easily become disappointed when that technology gets shelved for something new. It is hard to keep up.

It's not just technology that changes. Things are changing in our world right now? The way we make purchases is changing, maybe you've gotten more bold venturing into the world of online purchases. I think COVID-19 is certainly going to change the way some things are done in learning, especially higher learning institutions. Will big college campuses be able to survive or will higher learning transition to online? I don't know. The way our kids learn, the way we learn is changing. There are bound to be changes in travel and large groups gathering for entertainment. Things are changing and change can be unsettling.

Maybe you wonder what changes are coming that are going to be specific to your way of life. Even without a health crisis, you know how quickly things can change in life and quickly. There are things in the future that we cannot foresee that can change our whole life. Amidst all the changes that take place in our life it can happen that one day we can enjoy prosperity and security, the next day there can be unemployment, there can be insecurity. One day we can be cheerful and content, the next day we can feel broken and weak and confused. One day we can be confident that we are loved and cared for the next day we can be left wondering if anybody cares.

Security, contentment, being loved and cared for; as human beings we crave these things. So did Jesus' disciples. With Jesus around, the disciples enjoyed all of the above. But now things were going to change, they were going to change drastically. Jesus announces that there is going to be a betrayal by one of the twelve. He tells them, "I am going to be with you only a little while longer...where I am going, you cannot come." Big changes are coming.

They had latched on Jesus' presence, they had become comfortable and secure with Jesus' visibly there with them. Jesus doesn't want them to be disappointed when things change, when he returns to his Father, when he removes his visible presence. He doesn't want them to wonder if he loves them or cares for them. It is for this reason that Jesus speaks some of the most comforting words in Scripture, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, you believe in God; believe also in me" (Jn 14:1).

Jesus is saying, "Don't let your emotions get the best of you when you see what is about to happen at my trial, my suffering, my dying. Don't be confused about my love and my care for you when I stay on the cross tomorrow, Good Friday, when I am laid in a tomb. My going to the cross is showing you the full extent of how much I love you and care for you. I could have stayed in heaven clothed with all majesty, but I came to do this for you. I will suffer more than anyone in the history of the world under the weight of your sin. I am carrying out my Father's will, he loves you too. It is all so that you can have a "not guilty" verdict in my Father's presence. You will see, I will be raised to life just as I said. My resurrection will assure you that you are justified, you are just right in God's sight. There is no need to be troubled. "You trust in God? You can trust in me."

The next few hours and days were going to look very bleak. The disciples would go through a range of emotions as Jesus was crucified and buried and the words of Jesus in the back of their mind, "I am going away and you cannot follow me." Confusion, insecurity, wondering where in the world was all this going, where was Jesus leading them? Was he doing the right thing? All this change would seem to be disastrous for Him, for them, wouldn't it?

Amidst all the changes that they would experience over the next 43 days leading up to his ascension, even in the face of death itself, the disciples need not fear, they only need to cling to him. "You believe in God, trust in me." He knew what he was doing. He was still in control. "You trust in God," Jesus says, "And you know how my Father has proven himself trustworthy in the past, recall his faithfulness to his promises in the desert, he brought them to the promised land, to his people in captivity, he brought them back, every one of his promises he remembers. "I am from the Father" (:9-12). "I can be trusted," Jesus is saying in verses 9-12. "Trust in me," Jesus says

The important things in all of this is not that the disciples were so strong in trusting or their trustworthiness. The disciples would quickly show their weaknesses as they would flee from Jesus, deny Jesus. Their trust would be weak. Rather, they could have confidence in facing the future and the changes it would bring because their God was trustworthy, he was faithful. Jesus was trustworthy. His cross, his empty tomb show how trustworthy he is for us.

It is really a fascinating exchange between Jesus and his disciples and it teaches us so much on our path through all the constant and sometimes radical changes of this life. There sits Jesus at the table with the disciples. I picture him remarkably calm that evening. He is fully aware of the agony and anguish coming his way. He is about to sacrifice himself as payment for the world's sin, the disciples' sin, for your sin and mine. But in the midst of all that was about to happen to him, his concern isn't for himself, it is for his disciples. "Loving them to the end" (Jn 13:1), Loving them to the end Jesus tells his anxious and worried disciples, "Trust in me."

They are some of the most beautiful, comforting words in all of Scripture. Now, think about that evening for moment... He has shown them the extent of his love ... he began by washing their dirty, dusty feet. He has given them a very special meal, his love for them was shown in giving his very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins in the New Meal of Holy Communion. He has told them over and over how it was necessary for him to go through with his suffering, his dying, and after three days he would rise from the dead. He gives them these beautiful words about trusting in him and his Father. He tells them clearly that if he goes away for a while, don't worry, I am preparing a home, a permanent home away from all the troubles of this life, for you in heaven, and I'll come back so you can be with me (as we just sang earlier).

They've heard it all and yet the disciples don't seem to grasp much of anything. Thomas in verse 5, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" In other words, "Jesus, we don't know what you are talking about? We don't know if this is all good for you ... for us."

Too often we are like Thomas and the disciples. We've heard how many messages about God's love and care for us in Jesus, but we aren't sure if the path he has us on is the right one, if it is good for us, how it can be for our good. We've heard how many times that Jesus had to suffer, and his followers will bear crosses to follow him, but we aren't so sure. We've heard how many times that his Word is the source of truth and yet we've looked elsewhere. How often haven't we heard that Jesus is the point and purpose of life, but we have made something else take over the number one place in our life, something we think we can't live without.

Jesus says "Do not let your heart be troubled..." and when has he ever not been trustworthy...yet we are troubled. We become afraid of what we see around us. We don't understand what is happening in our life, it just doesn't make sense to us and we . We still aren't sure if the trouble we face or the cross we bear can be turned into good. Like the disciples, we sometimes struggle to simply trust in him and his Words. When that happens, when we are feeling lost or confused....there is Jesus with patience, with love, with understanding, with sympathy. He gives his disciples, us included, something certain to hold onto.

Jesus answered, "I am the way ... No one comes to the Father, except through me." Look at the way he goes. His path involves suffering, the cross. When we don't understand life, when the pain is too much, when we've lost the point and purpose of life, look to Jesus! He is the way to the Father, follow him, his way, there might be crosses and trials to bear for his name, but it will all end in Easter victory and blessedness in the Father's house where there is no more mourning or crying or pain.

When your emotions and feelings have you unsure of the truth of God's love and care for you. When the world confuses us even more by saying truth is relative, it is whatever you want it to be, it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere, look to Jesus, the only source of truth on how to be forgiven and saved. When the world is pointing you

to the latest research over here, and the cure over there, promising that science is going to save us...(btw, we thank God for the advances in science and modern medicine, science is a blessing from God for the curious mind) but in the end it hasn't cured us from death. We look to Jesus, his truth. **"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believe him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24).** The truth is that his love and care for us are like that of mother's care, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13). God's plan for his people was good and they could trust him, like a child runs to mom for comfort.

When we seem to have lost purpose in this life, when thoughts about the end of life make us afraid, look to Jesus. His death and resurrection give purpose to our life, real life. Only in Jesus am I really alive because I am pardoned of my sin and the hope of heaven. That pardon and hope and love of Jesus compels us to not live for ourselves but for him who died for us and was raised to life for us (2 Corinthians 5:14). We live in him and he in us through his Word and the Sacrament. As we go through all the changes of this life, our life will one day be brought to a beautiful crescendo in the mansions prepared for us in heaven. Following him who is the way, the truth and the life, follow him closely through all the constant changes of this life and soon enough we will sigh, "Lord Jesus, you have done all things well."

SONG

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (v.5,7,8)

♪ 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

APOSTLES CREED⁴

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

⁴ Public confession of what we believe is faith's response to God's saving Word. Today we confess the Apostles' Creed.

OFFERING

“If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have” (II Corinthians 8:12). God wants us to give in proportion to what he has given us. This is proportional or percentage giving.

Peace Lutheran offers a secure Give by Text option. To donate via text, send the dollar amount you wish to give, including a dollar sign, to 888-314-2975. Example: \$40. You will receive a secure registration link.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you are the source of life, wisdom, and all good things. Look with favor on all mothers who have given life to their children and who nurture them with loving concern and faithful instruction. May their children honor them and call them blessed. When they become weary, sustain them with physical and spiritual rest.

Through our mom we learn charity and kindness and truth. Thank you for the time and love our mothers give during this life. Bless mothers everywhere with love, patience, understanding, strength to carry out their special work. Lead children everywhere to be thankful for their mothers. Keep families everywhere faithful to your Word. Hear us for the sake of your Son, Jesus, who cared for his earthly mother, even from the cross.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Christ Be My Leader

♪ Christ be my leader by night as by day,
Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care;
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

2 Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand.
Doubt cannot daunt me—in Jesus I stand!

3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation—with Jesus I reign!

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BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Continue to check our Facebook page and Website for updates... The hymnwriter says, "Change and decay all around I see." May our prayer always be, "O thou who changest not, abide with me."

God go with you until we meet again.

FRUITS OF FAITH

Cumulative gifts given in April 2020:	\$20,262
Budgetary funds needed for April 2020:	\$14,056
Cumulative gifts given in March 2020:	\$14,019
Budgetary funds needed for March 2020:	\$14,056
<hr/>	
Total cong. commitment for "Building Peace for the Future":	\$159,942
Total gifts and pledges received to date:	\$162,054