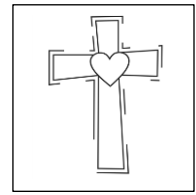


Perley Lutheran Parish
May 10th
5th Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

- Happy Mother's Day!
- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- I will be going live from Kirkebo next Sunday
- Meeting Monday evening to discuss the upcoming plans for worship/summer
- Thanks for the kids who helped with the Sunshine video challenge – will be posting the video soon.
- Thank you to everyone who helped support the Food Shelf the last two months – greatly appreciated at this busy time
- Continue to send in your offerings
- Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out
- Invite friends to watch!

Opening Responses:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: **We give you thank, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.**

P: To you God, be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

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.

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 (Read Responsively)

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.** You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, **take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.** Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. **My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.** Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

First Reading Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he

knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-14, Glory to you O Lord

"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^[d] 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.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message:

Today I brought with me four directional signs. Each has different arrows. (Show the signs.) Let's see how good you are at following the arrows. As I hold up each arrow sign, look the way the arrow is pointing. (Go through each of the four signs slow, then fast to try to catch them not looking the right way.) You did pretty well. Now as I share about today's Bible lesson, see if you can follow instructions and look the right way when you see a sign.

Stop and imagine how Jesus' disciples felt in our Bible lesson today. Jesus knew that the day of his crucifixion was coming and that He would soon return to His Father in heaven. He was trying to prepare His disciples for the time when He would no longer be with them.

"Don't worry," Jesus said, "I am going to prepare a place for you. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will be with me. You know the way to where I am going."

(Show the up arrow sign and have kids look up.)

"No, we don't," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

(Show the right arrow sign and have kids look right.)

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

(Show the up arrow sign and have kids look up.)

Philip, another of the disciples spoke up, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

(Show the right arrow sign and have kids look right.)

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! Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me." Jesus wanted his disciples to know He and the Father were one, and that if they put their trust in God and in Him, they would one day join Him in Heaven.

(Show the up arrow sign and have kids look up.)

Sometimes life can be very confusing and we don't know where to turn or what path to take. It seems that every path we take leads to a dead end.

(Show the down arrow sign and have kids look down.)

When that happens, we just need to remember that Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." If we will keep our eyes on Jesus and follow his teaching, we will find the path to our goal -- eternal life in Heaven with him. We can only come to God through Jesus.

(Show the up arrow sign and have kids look up.)

Dear God, help us keep our eyes on Jesus because we know that He is the way -- the only way to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I have to admit that our Gospel today is one of my favorite passages. I also have to admit that it is probably the passage that I have preached on the most in my few years as a seminary student. The reason for this is that this is one of the most common passages that is used for funerals. It is a passage that is reassuring and seems to give us all hope and peace with saying good-bye to those we love and friendship.

While we all have homes that we live in this life. Whether it's a little house or something of great grandeur – we have a home that we find shelter and comfort in while we are here in this life. What this Gospel is about is our path to another home – an ever-lasting home and place that we will go to when our time here is done. We are all working and looking towards a path to that home in our lives and we know because of what Jesus did for us – that we will find a place in God's home and that we will be joined there by the Father and through the Father.

Of course no one really knows what that house is going to look at. What we do know however is what Jesus tells us in this passage "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[a] in God, believe also in me. ² 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?" Jesus is giving us reassurance – a chance to be at ease when the time comes that someone passes or a time when we too are nearing our end of time here. Not only is there the assurance that we need to worry or be troubled but there is the true sense of peace for me

in this passage that Jesus has prepared a space, a place and home for me – and you - right there with God.

Jesus goes on to say “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.” Again, I feel so much love and peace in this verse because I know that I and you not only have a home waiting for us but that we get to go home with HIM. We won’t take that last breath or spend our last moments here without Jesus coming to take us to our place beside our God.

Now realize – that we know the whole story. We know what happens to Jesus – his death and his resurrection – but the disciples that were among him had only heard his stories of what was to come. They didn’t have the information that we have so we shouldn’t be surprised when Thomas questions Jesus about what he is saying. Thomas says “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus is sitting among them telling them that he’s going to take them to the Father, yet they don’t understand because they feel that they haven’t been shown just what and how all of this will happen.

There are a few parts to Jesus’ response to Thomas – and truthfully Jesus’ response to all of us. The first part is that Jesus says he is “the way.” The way – leads one to think of a path, or a direction. In other words, Jesus is the path or direction to the Father and ultimately home. While our lives as Christians lead to the ultimate gift of being home with our Father, our goal here is to live each day walking and working within a personal relationship with our Father.

You all know what a crazy busy life I lead. With that in mind I tend to be the kind of person that looks often times to the destination – where I need to be and what do I need to do to get there. I have everything planned and coordinated to the minute as to what needs to get done, how to do it and then we get there! What I have found is that when I don’t operate in that mode – when I actually allow myself to venture off the planned pathway, I find great joy and peace. Perhaps some of you have come across my trips to and from Michigan to transport my beautiful granddaughter. It’s nothing for us to stop at every other little town to take a picture with Paul Bunyan in Akeley, the large Totem Pole in Wakefield, the gigantic downhill skier in Bessemer or whatever odd and unique monument we can find. It has changed how we view that 16 hour drive and has given us something not only to look forward to but look to in our scenery as we drive new and different ways to see what’s out there.

So like those that make a plan and get there, we sometimes as Christians look at Jesus’ life, death and ultimate resurrection as a means to the end – Jesus died so that when I die I will go to heaven. Done! This belief however is a bit too simple in thinking and really the opposite of what Jesus asks of us. What Jesus wants for us – the reason that Jesus went to the cross for us – is so we can enter into a relationship with God. A relationship in which we experience God in our every- day lives. Each day we experience God’s presence and love and an abundant life. Each and every breath we take, every beat that our heart makes, every ray of sunshine and every blade of grass allows us to be in relation with our God.

Let us remember that walking with Jesus – the way – is a journey in that when things seem challenging and disappointment, we can grow deeper in relationship with Jesus. A journey in which we can experience love and forgiveness on a daily basis, where love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness can bring us all an abundant life. A journey in which we can use our gifts and our talents to serve others and therefore ultimately serve our Lord.

Second point that Jesus made in this passage is that he is the Truth. Truth is tricky. While we all think we always want the truth the reality is that often times we don’t want or like it. Let’s be honest, we want to hear or read something that agrees with how we think or understand the truth to be. We often times don’t want

knew and different ideas even if they contain some truth. Think back to a time when you were a teenager – did you always tell your parents the exact truth or did you sometimes tell them a variation of the truth in order to tell them what they needed to hear.

Truth comes slowly. The truth that we have been living our sinful lives in this world can only be realized and forgiven by Jesus. By walking with Jesus – by walking with the Truth – truth slowly seeps into our lives and helps us to change. Walking in the truth helps to shape and mold us. Transform us into the people and the children of God as we are asked to be.

Finally, Jesus is the life. As I mentioned before I am – as many of you are – a destination focused person most of the time. It serves me well when I need to get things done but it also hinders my well-being at times and causes me to miss out on some beautiful, exciting and meaningful parts of the journey. I miss out on what the journey or the path may have in store for me. It's ok to be content with just knowing you are heading in the right direction. It's ok to be content in learning to enjoy the journey you are on. It's ok to open yourself up to the truth. It's ok for all of this as it helps us to live this abundant life we are promised and live it right here in our heaven on earth. Let's enjoy our path, live in the beauty that God created, find and appreciate those little moments of joy and peace in whatever fun we can find and know that God is with us on our path. Amen!

Hymn of the Day: Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission: Heal the sick and preach the Word.
Lest the Church neglect its mission, and the Gospel go unheard.
Help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: in my name baptize and teach
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each.
Give us all new fervor draw us closer in community.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Apostles Creed

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 to the dead. 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/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Build us up, restoring God, to continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for all of your churches right now who struggle to gather while apart, who struggle with when and how to best come together again in the safest way, who are new and in development. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Humble us, o creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made. Remind us to appreciate and stop and enjoy the many parts of this world in our journeys towards you. BE with the farmers as they care for our lands and plant and raise the crops and animals that will sustain us in our lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress and carry their burdens. Lord we ask that you be with those in our congregation – those who are healing from surgery and those who are healing from loss of friends and/or family. We ask that you be present with those who are lonesome and those that are feeling isolated. Be with those in our congregation, those who are joining us from afar and those who we name in our hearts now..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend to our sick. We pray for those who continue to do essential work to provide for all of us. We pray for those teachers who despite their new model of teaching have went above and beyond to continue to teach our children these last few weeks. We give thanks for all those who have shown mothering care and we pray and thank you for our Mom's today. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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.

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:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Hymn: I Know that My Redeemer Lives

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!

He lives triumphant from the grave;

He lives eternally to save;

He lives exalted throned above;

He lives to rule his Church in love.

Dismissal:

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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CHRISTUS

Life

truth

John

14:1-6

Finding the Way

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
The puzzle is based on John 14:1-14 (NIV).



T J Y C O M T W A Y Z C P V A
A E E H I S I A U J S S R L F
H L X B U D Y R N H Y T E Y R
W R A R X H T Z A I I J P E T
T U T Z P E R H F C M X A D N
R F M E L A S R O H L W R Z P
O V J X A R T H T M B E E B X
U X R L C T O I O O A Q S L E
B K L O E S A W I W W S V V V
L C L I O F F A T H E R E O H
E Q A D V M J O I F L I R T O
D F D E L I S K R Z L C U N U
S Y I K I K N O W E M R J X S
L I N S F P I G B D T I S P E
Y J I Q E M C E N O U G H J Z

ENOUGH	WAY	HEARTS	TROUBLED	TRUST
THOMAS	LIFE	MIRACLES	HOUSE	SEEN
SHOW	BELIEVE	KNOW	ROOMS	LIVING
FATHER	FAITH	PLACE	PREPARE	TRUTH

