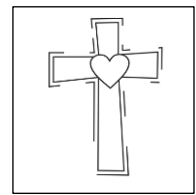


Perley Lutheran Parish
June 7th
The Holy Trinity
First Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm – Where's Michele is going well about 10 people/families participating in the game the first week.
- Continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- Continue to send in your offerings
- Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out
- Invite friends to watch!

Confession and Forgiveness:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin

Reconciling God,

We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness in life. Amen

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through +Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 8 (Read Responsively)

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. **Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; **what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?** Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,** all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, **the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.** O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

First Reading Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let

there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So, God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus, the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20, **Glory to you O Lord**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

Children's Message

Supplies: (Received mail and mail supplies)

Today I want to talk with you about a very important job we have as Christians. Before Jesus went to Heaven, He gave His disciples some special instructions, and they apply to us, too! First, though, I want to show you some items I just picked up from the Post Office. See, here's a letter from my Grandma, and this one is a card from my friend who lives far away...this one is a boring bill, but this one has some important news for me! Ooh, and this one is an invitation for a graduation party. I enjoy getting to pick up the mail from the box, and seeing what is inside. Do you like to receive mail?

What do you think would happen if the mail carriers decided they just didn't want to do their jobs anymore, and they quit bringing the letters? All of those important notices, and letters, and bills and information and invitation, all of that would never reach people! They might miss out on something they really needed to know. Did you know that our Post Office is actually controlled by the Government? If the mail delivery agents don't properly drop off mail, it's actually considered a crime! They have to do that job, and it's an exciting one.

Did you know that we have an essential task to carry out, as well? Jesus gave us some important instructions to fulfill. Before He ascended into Heaven, He reminded the disciples that He would always be with them. And He told them to go into all of the world and make disciples of other people. That meant they were commanded to spread the Gospel, start churches, and tell others of Christ. We often refer to this sending as the "Great Commission", as Jesus was sending us out to perform an essential task.

Guess what? Those directions were not just for the disciples. It's our turn, now! God wants us to serve others and tell them about the good news of Jesus. That's something that Jesus commanded us to do. It's not something we can just choose to do if we feel like it, but a critical part of who we are as Christians. Just as mail is sent out, we are sent out, and it's our job to share God's love with one another. We can do this around the whole world, but we can also do it with people near to us. What are some ways we can follow that Great Commission of Jesus? Well, we can tell people about Jesus. We can invite them to church or Sunday School. We can send them cards or letters...and we can just love them and be their friends! That's a great way to share and spread the good news.

When we are faithful to God, we can make more followers. And it's a beautiful thing! This is not just a task we *have* to do, but something we *get* to do! It's a blessing to have the opportunity to take part in helping God bring the world into relationship with Him. People need to get those good news messages. Let's deliver them!

Children's Prayer Moment

Dear God,
Please help us to love and serve others
Those near us, and around the world
Thank you for allowing us to be part of your great plan
Help us to share the good news
And spread your love to one another
Thank you for your love
We love you, God!
In Jesus name, Amen!

Message:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen I struggled this week, struggled with what to preach on as all of our passages this week are so amazing. I could've preached on creation – there are so many beautiful flowers and fields being planted and rivers flowing and warm breezes as we sit by our bonfires at night. God's creation is tremendous and indescribable to say the least. Our Psalm continued some on that same theme – O lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. We can see God all over – in nature and in science. In our lives day in and day out – God's majestic creation and his fingerprints are all over the world and all over each of us. So either one of those passages would've been fun to delve a little more into. I decided however to continue in our Gospel message with the final discussion or commissioning that Jesus gives to the disciples before ascending into heaven. With the craziness of my week and trying to get 800 students graduated in record time – I thank a Pastor Jason Bonnicksen who had wonderful ideas in a sermon he gave back in 2011 that helped me to form my message today.

Our passage is called the "Great Commission" – commission referencing the job that they, and us, are being given by Jesus Christ in his absence. Now usually when you hear the word commission you may find yourself thinking about when in the military when officers are commissioned – or charged with – their duties, their responsibilities, their jobs or positions. If you have ever been in the military yourself, have witnessed an officer going through that process, you watch as they recite an oath, a promise one could say, that says they swear to defend and support the Constitution and have faith and allegiance to the United States of America. Well of course the disciples weren't commissioned in such a manner as this – there was no raising of their right hand, clearly they did not place their hand on the Bible like some offices require in our country (it wasn't written yet - HA) and they weren't making promises to the world they were living in. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." There's two questions we need to ask. What is this authority mean; and from whom was Jesus given this authority? We're going get to the answers, but it's going be a roundabout way.

Now, you'll notice nowhere in this passage is word the commission ever used — for the exception of the header before these passages, which is only put there by the publisher anyway. In all reality, there's only one passage in the entire bible that uses the word commission — that's Acts 26:12. In the Acts passage, the Apostle Paul was standing trial before King Agrippa with the charge of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, Paul's standing before the King, and Agrippa gives permission to Paul to plead his case. Paul starts telling his story of how at one time he was a great Pharisee and how he persecuted the Christians. Then, Paul recounts the time when he journeyed to Damascus in order to "take care of the Christians", under the authority and commission of the chief priests — that last phrase being the exact verbiage used in verse 12.

Paul derived his authority directly from the chief priests and, as such, held a commission, charging him with the duties and responsibilities to persecute the new and growing church. However, on his way to Damascus, Jesus knocked him off from his donkey, and charged Paul with a new commission. Paul told Agrippa about that as well. That commission was this.

Jesus said to Paul, "I have appeared to you — [and hear this word]— to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. [Here's the specific commission]. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'" (This account takes place in Acts 26:16–18).

In other words, Jesus commissioned Paul — in the authority of his sovereign name — to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything [Jesus commanded him.]” Paul’s charge was the same Jesus gave to the disciples. But from where, some might ask, did Jesus receive this authority, and what’s that look like. That brings us back to our Gospel passage today in Matthew.

This word authority in the Greek language means a bunch of things: The first thing it means is a “freedom of choice, or a right.” As I mentioned in the beginning of my message - we can see this in the commissioning oath of our country’s military officers when they say, ““I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.”

This word also means “the right to control or command, authority, absolute power, and warrant.” This last way is how the word is used — both in the passage with Paul, as we just saw — as well as here in Matthew 28. Still, both of these definitions speak to the kind of authority Jesus was given from a higher sovereign power; and that’s God the Father.

If we look at one of my all-time favorite verses - John 1:1-2, 4-5 it says “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.... In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. A few verses later, verse 14 to be specific reads, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

I guess we could say Jesus was commissioned by the Father — before the beginning of time —to come to earth, in order to fulfill the Father’s will by being the means for which all people can be saved of their sins. It’s kind of like, Jesus swore a commissioning oath to the Father. Under the authority of God the Father, Jesus brought the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. He established the New Covenant by fulfilling the first by laying down his own life. Jesus came under the sovereignty of God the Father, in order to bring salvation to all humanity; and in doing so, he honored the Father. That’s where the “Great Commission” comes into play.

Jesus goes on to say, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” What’s he’s saying here is, “I am giving you the authority to go forth - in my name - to be my light in a darkened world.

For three years, Jesus instructed his disciples. They learned how to be in right relationship to God, and how to act under the sovereign power of Christ as God’s chosen. Then, right before he ascended, Jesus commissioned them, just as the Father had commissioned him.

Let’s picture the scene of this passage. They were all upon the mountain, and they just had finished eating a meal together. Jesus gave them his final instructions and says basically “You’re ready for this. I chose you, now let me commission you to go out and gather others and act upon my authority.” The excitement builds.

This text doesn’t say anybody refused Jesus. Instead, the Bible and extra-historical documents record just the opposite. The Book of Acts and the writings of the Early Church Fathers testify to the manner in which the disciples took seriously their oaths to Jesus Christ. Like Jesus, the Apostles (including Paul) took their obligation freely. Think a moment. Despite their peril, they went out into the entire world and proclaimed that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and only through Christ, can we enter into the presence of God the Father and live in eternal peace.

After the Holy Spirit filled them on the day of Pentecost, they fully entered into their offices for which Jesus chose them. They no longer doubted. They lived and served in true faith and allegiance to Jesus Christ and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. None of them refused Christ, or tried to evade their commission by running and hiding when life and ministry became difficult.

They were faithful to the Way of Christ and to the true Word of God; and they aligned themselves with God versus the ways of this world. In other words; they honored the Father, as was modeled for them.

Jesus' final words to the disciples served as words of comfort. Jesus said, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." See, God's promises are nothing new. Just as God promised to be by Israel's side as they entered into the Promised Land if they remained in him, he will remain by our side, for as long as we remain in him.

Jesus gave his disciples this same promise, and this same promise remains for you and me. Therefore, because he has, we can go out in his peace, knowing that his Spirit will be with us, and help us, and help us make disciples for him and to teach them to obey everything we've been commanded. God has promised to be with us wherever we go, we can be strong and courageous in our faith.

We can be encouraged, courageous and strong and honor God the Father. Here's how. Let's raise our right hands and reconfirm our confirmation oaths. Let us go from this place with courage – from where you are right now, in the strength of God's Spirit, and shine the light of Christ by proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ, and by acting upon the authority he's given us as the church and as disciples of our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: Holy, Holy, Holy #165

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons. Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
All thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons Blessed Trinity

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: (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**)

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to see waterways, plan life, birds, fish, bugs and mammal and call them good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice for those who often are ignored and oppressed and racially singled out. Loving God, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Help us all to be brothers and sisters in Christ and to love ALL your children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of care, console, heal and nourish all in need. God of companionship; you accompany this body of faith. As the rhythms of summer begin, protect all who travel, renew all who will enjoy a time of Sabbath, and be with us all when we are away from gathering in our churches. Be with us all as we pray for those who are lonely, for those that are healing – like Alana and Kirk, for those that fight and fight and fight to beat the virus, for those that have gone to be with you, like Rick and those who battle with cancer like Jeff or any other issue that causes your children to seek your presence. Be with those that we now name in our heart and minds..... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Receive these prayers, O God, and be with us now as we say the prayer that Jesus taught to 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:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, not things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, +Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen

Sending Hymn: Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer for all things living, Created good:

Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Then will your blessing reach every people, Freely confessing Your gracious hand.

Where all obey you, No one will hunger; In your love's sway you nourish the land.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

I Can Tell My Friends About Jesus



The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

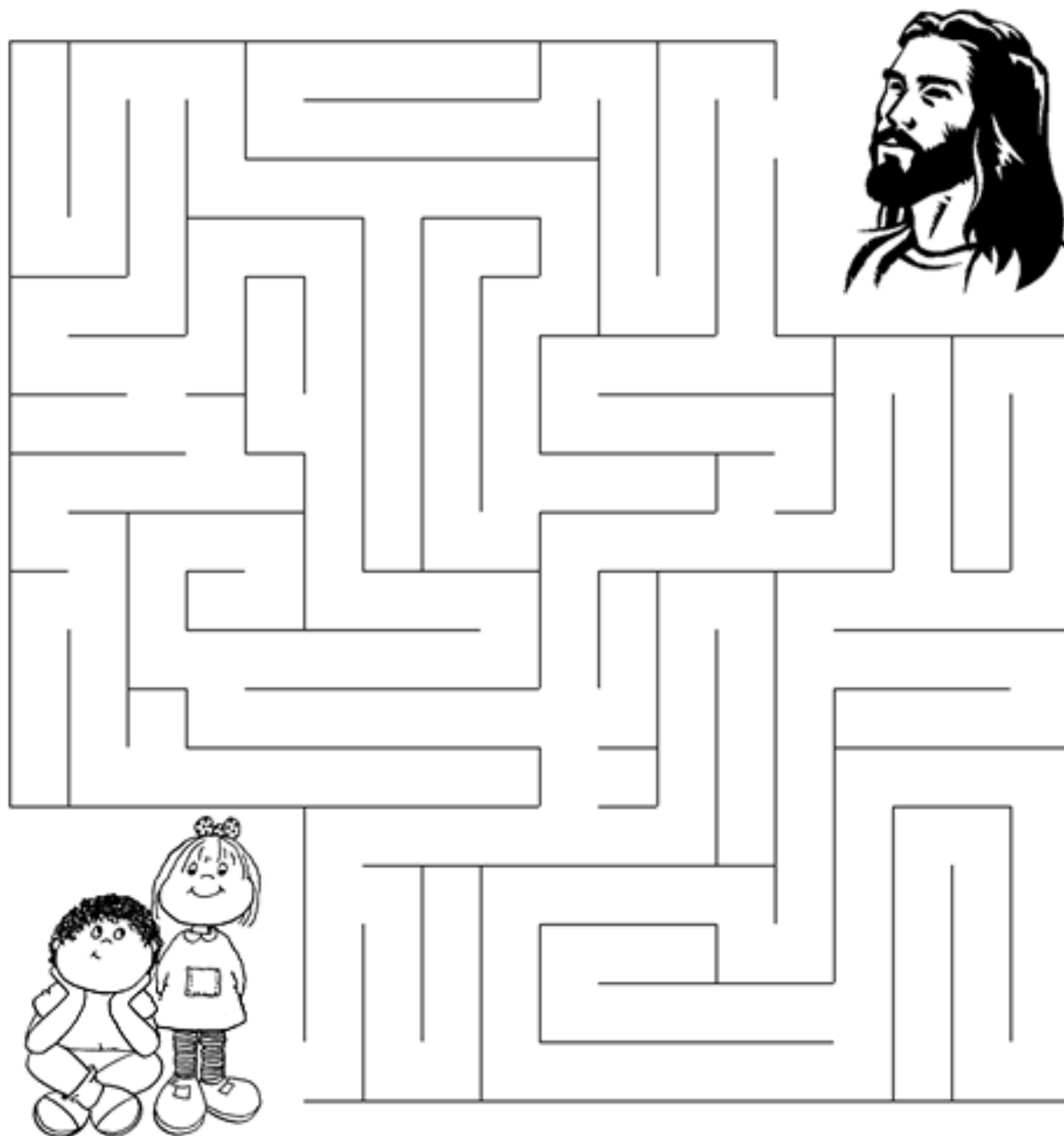
Based on Matthew 28:16-20



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OBEY	DISCIPLES	EARTH	AUTHORITY
JESUS	MOUNTAIN	ALWAYS	TEACHING
BAPTIZING	HEAVEN	COMMANDED	ELEVEN
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The Great Commission Maze



I can help my friends find the way to Jesus!