

“I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life”

John 14:1-14

Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

Last week, Jesus said, “I am the Door.” There is no way into the safety of God’s peace except through the One Door. There is no way to cover guilt and shame other than passing through that Door. It is in Christ and Christ alone that we have access to God. Jesus says, “I am the Way.” He is the only Way. “No one can come to the Father except through Me.” And as we just sang, “Father welcomes all His children to His family through His Son.”

This is the truth. Jesus says, “I am the Truth.” My word is Truth. The world outside of Christ’s Church questions whether or not there is such a thing as truth. This is nothing new. And it should not surprise us that Satan has led people to call into question the existence of truth.

It is like we saw last week: Jesus says, “I am the Door” through which you enter to be within the safe protection of the flock of the Good Shepherd. How did you enter? Most likely through Baptism. Baptism is the door. As I said last week, Baptism equals Jesus. You are washed in the blood of the Lamb. The Word of God, the Word who was made flesh, is combined with that water. It is certainly not just water doing these great things. In Baptism, you receive Jesus. Your sin is forgiven. It is buried with Christ in Baptism [Rom. 6]. You have risen to a new life in Christ. Satan wants you to question this. He

wants you to have no confidence in this or in any of the mysteries or the miraculous nature of God, His Word, or the gifts of the Sacraments.

Jesus says, "I am the Truth." Jesus said to Pontius Pilate, "I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." Pilate asks Jesus, "What is truth?" This is the question Satan always wants us to ask. If he can get you to buy into the philosophy of the day and call into question whether or not we can really know that anything is true, the next step is to call into question whether or not God is true – or, in this case, the Truth. Jesus says, "I AM the Truth."

What is the truth? There is only one truth that matters. Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!! This is our joy. This is our hope. This is why we can approach this day and approach God Himself with confidence. Christ is risen in His body and so will you rise in your body.

This is the confidence that Stephen shows when he looks to the heavens and says the same words as Jesus did when He drew His final breath, "Receive my spirit." I preached on this on Good Friday. This is a prayer of confidence in the resurrection.

What is truth? Christ is the truth. What is the truth that Christ our Lord accomplished? He showed charity to those who do not deserve it. He came to love the unlovable. He came to show mercy upon those who do not deserve mercy. Paul says in Romans 5, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." We were the undeserving and unlovable who God chose to love any way.

The Psalmist says, “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth” [Ps. 86:11]. The verse prior to that in the Psalm says, “For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.”

Jesus tells His disciples, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do.” Greater works? I haven’t healed too many blind or deaf people “lately”; or raised anyone from the dead. Greater works? Jesus can’t be talking about miracles – at least not the type of miracles that we associate with Jesus.

The Psalmist says, “For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.” The great and wondrous thing that God does for His children is to teach them His way. Jesus says, “I am the Way.” We pray with the Psalmist, “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.” Jesus says, “I am the Truth.” You have to always remember that the Old Testament is all about Jesus too. Luther said, “You can cut the Bible on any page and it will bleed the blood of Christ.”

Jesus says to the disciples that they will do greater works than He did during His ministry. What is greater? Jesus having a man born blind wash the mud off of his eyes with water so that he has clear vision, or, here in Christ’s church, having a man born dead in his sin washed clean in the water of Baptism. This is the greater miracle.

When Pentecost comes, Peter preaches one sermon and 3000 come to faith and are baptized in that one day. When Jesus ended His

three year ministry of preaching and teaching and performing miracle upon miracle, there were 120 followers according to the book of Acts.

It is not because Jesus was a bad preacher. But there are several truths at work. First of all, miracles of healing and signs and wonders have never created lasting faith. Of this, there are countless examples throughout the Bible. And secondly, the Holy Spirit, the One who creates faith, works through means. We call God's Word and the Sacraments the Means of Grace. These are the vehicles through which God's grace comes to you.

Think back two weeks ago with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus was only revealed to them in the "breaking of the bread." God has told you how He has chosen to reveal Himself to you, create faith in you, and maintain that faith in you – through Baptism, through His written Word, His preached Word, and the Word made flesh that still dwells among us under the form of bread and wine.

This is the greater miracle that we, who once were blind, can now see. We who, once were like the Pharisees, plugged our ears so we would not hear the truth of Stephen's words, now rejoice to hear the sweet words of the Gospel. We, who were once dead in our sin, have risen to a new life in Christ. This is the greater miracle. This is the way. This is the truth. This is the life. As the Psalmist says, "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth" – that I may have the Resurrection and the life. Amen.

Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!