

May 7, 2023: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Main Idea: Once you truly see Jesus—that is, once you truly encounter Jesus—the way you see everything else changes.

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life” is one of the most well-known and beloved lines in all of scripture. But what exactly does it mean? It certainly implies an exclusivity about Jesus, especially related to salvation. It reads like you’re waiting in line at a nightclub called Heaven. When you finally get up to the bouncer, you lean in a bit and say, “Yeah—I know Jesus Christ.” The bouncer scans his list, gives you a nod, unclips the velvet rope barrier and lets you through to eternal life.

But perhaps a more helpful—and more accurate—way to think about what Jesus means when he says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” is to think of him saying, “I am the lens you get to start using.” “I am the way...you see now.” Because salvation isn’t really a one-stop destination—it’s a lifelong process of relearning and reorienting. Salvation isn’t about that one moment you get the go-ahead to walk into that nightclub—it’s about the buildup of the entire night: why you want to go to that nightclub in the first place; how you decide to get there; who you bring along with you.

Jesus is the unique person in all of history who is fully human and fully divine. Jesus is the unique person in all of history through whom we can see, filter and frame our entire cosmos differently.

Where the disciples initially saw a man in Jesus, they ended up seeing the divine. When you truly encounter Jesus, you can’t help but to see yourself and the world around you in brand new ways.

Scripture Summary

Jesus proclaims himself “the way, and the truth, and the life.” His radical invitation to God’s home is for all people.



New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Div. of Christ. Ed. of the Nat'l Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2022 Clergy Stuff. Used with Permission. clergystuff.com



GOD'S WORD for Today

May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵But 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!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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.

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them

fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus 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?’ ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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.

¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”