



Lectionary Bible Study - Our Savior Lutheran Church Fifth Week of Easter: John 14:1-14

Readings and Psalm

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 118 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom Study each Wednesday, 10am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86887930554?pwd=M0gr aUNzNFR5azYwUnNkdFZ5RmQ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 868 8793 0554 **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW Password: 654321**
Or dial in for audio only: 1-301-715-8592

John 14:1-14 - “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?^[b] 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.”^[c] 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^[d] 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.

Things were topsy-turvy to say the least, at least as described in John 13. During a meal with his closest companions, Jesus gets up from the table, takes off his clothes, wraps a towel around his waist and does the job of a servant. The disciples are commanded to love one another. Then he tells his disciples one of them will betray him. Not only that, but “the Rock” will deny him not once, not twice, but three times. Topsy-turvy indeed. (It seems that we know a thing or two about topsy-turvy these days). John 13 concludes with the disciples being concerned not about the future of Jesus as much as themselves. What will they do without Jesus? Jesus reassures them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1 NRSV)

1. Describe those things which are troubling your hearts at this time.
2. How does Jesus respond to the troubled hearts of the disciples? What does this mean for us?

John 14 continues the love theme of the last supper. Just as Jesus commanded the disciples to love one another, Jesus sees, hears, and responds to the concerns of his troubled disciples. Just as some of the disciples had made preparations to secure the upper room for their last supper, so Jesus promises to prepare rooms for his disciples. He does this out of his love for them.

3. *When Jesus describes preparing a place for his disciples, what is he talking about?*
4. *How might the preparation of a place be an act of love?*

Unfortunately, this promise by Jesus is not reassuring, but confusing to the disciples. They are baffled how to follow Jesus if he is no longer living. Despite walking beside Jesus during his ministry and learning from his teachings, they do not know the way of Jesus. Plus, what might it mean for Jesus to come again to get the disciples and bring them to Jesus? It is as if Jesus does not grasp the finality of death. If Jesus is to die, then the disciples will be alone. There will be no second chance to be with Jesus.

5. *Have you ever faced the death of a loved one? How do you relate to the disciples?*
6. *How will the resurrection of Jesus help to give clarity to the disciples? To us?*

It is Thomas who dares to ask the core question, “How can we know the way?” (John 14:5 NRSV) This is the same disciple who will not believe in the risen Jesus until he touches his wounds. Thomas appears to be a man of practicality. He wants the facts. A map would be helpful. Jesus responds, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6 NRSV)

7. *What does this verse mean to you? What does it mean for us?*

Thomas (and probably the rest of Jesus’ audience) think Jesus is speaking of a literal place – a place with actual physical mansions. We too often envision those mansions when we most often hear this text – which is at funerals. But Jesus continues by speaking of his relationship with the Father. The Father and the Son (and the not-mentioned Spirit) is so connected that they are reflections of each other. Wherever it is that Jesus is going is not so much about a place as it is about *relationship*. And to be in relationship with Jesus is to be in relationship with the Creator. (By extension of our Trinitarian beliefs it is to be in relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer of life – who is promised just 2 verses after this passage). Jesus’ incarnation was for the purpose of showing us the Father’s love. God’s own name could not be mentioned, and yet here God is, in the flesh!

8. *How was that comforting to the disciples? How is it comforting to us?*