

JOHN 14:6 And Jesus said to him,

**I am the way,
the truth,
and the life.**

No one comes to the Father
except through Me.



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ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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A member of the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Welcome!

We are glad that you have joined us for worship.

Brian Roloff, Pastor | pastorroloff@AscensionPlymouth.com
Susan Decker, Music Director
Tammy Melott, Preschool Director/Teacher
Jennifer Tripp, Teacher

May 17, 2020

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

(P:=Pastor, C:=Congregation, ♪:=Congregation sings)

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All scripture quotations are taken from the NIV and are used by permission.

WORSHIP THEME: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

OPENING HYMN: #141 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* (vs. 1, 2, 5)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
3 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us
pow'rs be - neath you lie. You have con - quered
more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord,



in the tide Flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
in the fight; You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
par - a - dise, And your saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
set us free, New - born souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Help us to be faithful to him unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; for he lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: **John 14:1-12**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

READING RESPONSE: **#759 Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled**

(Congregation sings refrain, small choir sings verses.)

Refrain: *Do not let your hearts be troubled;
 have faith in God have faith in me.
I will go forth to prepare a place for you;
Then I’ll come back to take you with me,
 that where I am, you may also be.*

In God’s house there are many places
For you alone to dwell in safety.
You know the way to where I’ll lead you;
If you are lost, I will show the way.

Refrain

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life;
Only through me can you know what I know.
If you knew me, you would know the Father;
If you see me, you see your God.

Refrain

The words I speak are not only of myself;
It is your God who lives within me.
If you believe that your God and I are one,
I will provide when you call my name.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:4-10

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,”

and,

“A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

SERMON HYMN: #356 *You Are the Way; through You Alone*



1 You are the way; through you a - lone Can we the Fa - ther find;
2 You are the truth; your Word a - lone True wis - dom can im - part.
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm,
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,



In you, O Christ, has God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
You on - ly can in - form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
And those who put their trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

SERMON THEME: The LORD turns the wavering back to himself.

TEXT: **1 Kings 18:16b-39**

When [Ahab] saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”

“I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the LORD’S commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said nothing.

Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’S prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “O Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(all say)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brothers and Sisters, let us pray to our heavenly Father, who has made himself known to us in his Son:

Almighty God, you sent your Son to be the Way to heaven by his life, death, and resurrection. Nourish and enliven our faith in Christ through your holy Word and Sacraments and continually redirect our wavering hearts and wandering minds to him, who alone is the Truth and the Life. Enlighten our understanding to see Jesus as the ultimate proof of your presence and the evidence of your enduring love. Then use us and our congregation to faithfully proclaim Jesus as the Lord and Savior of all, especially to the ignorant and the unbelieving and those trapped in hopelessness and despair. By the power of your eternal Spirit turn their hearts back to you again.

Dear Father, bestow your grace on all the nations of the earth. Allow world leaders to work together in harmony for the good of all so that peace may prevail, life be protected, and truth abound. Especially we beg you to bless our people and our country during this pandemic. Cause your glory to dwell in our land. Do not allow

the seeds of bitterness and division to take root among us or anxiety and fear drive us to aimlessness and desperation. Make us instruments of your mercy to support those in need—the destitute, homeless, the unemployed and underemployed that we may assist them in finding honorable labor and daily supply. May we bring companionship and cheer to the lonely and encouragement to those weary of pandemic measures. Help us to bear one another’s griefs and sorrows and multiply our daily joys.

O Lord, hear our humble cries for mercy and relief on account of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, who even now stands before you on our behalf, pleading our cause with his own blood, until that day when we are delivered from the changes and chances of this mortal life and stand before you in heavenly glory. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*all pray*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #426 *Yours Forever, God of Love* (vs. 1-3, 5)



1 Yours for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us from your throne a - bove;
2 Yours for - ev - er, oh, how blest They who find in you their rest!
3 Yours for - ev - er, Lord of life! Shield us through our earth - ly strife.
4 Yours for - ev - er! Shep - herd, keep All your weak and trem - bling sheep



Yours for - ev - er may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!
Sav - ior, Guard - ian, heav'n - ly Friend, Oh, de - fend us to the end.
You, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
Safe - ly in your ten - der care; Let us all your good - ness share.

5. Yours forever! You our guide, All our needs by you supplied,
All our sins by you forgiv'n, Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.

CONNECTION CARD ON OUR APP

At this time we ask everyone to take a moment and fill out the info on the connection card, located under the Worship Today button. Please fill out any information that needs to be updated and submit.

THE OFFERING

Dear guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in our offering. We're glad you're here to listen to the message about Jesus.

If members or guests would like to give an offering electronically, they can do so by going to ascensionplymouth.com and click on the GIVE tab on your right hand side or use our App.



THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVED:

- ✦ Pianist: Susan Decker
- ✦ Small Choir: Mike Melott, Ruth Mitchell, Lisa Molitor