

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

(JOHN 14:1-12)



Matthew is writing for a community of mainly Jewish Christians: he therefore presents Jesus and his teachings clearly against the background of their Jewish tradition.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear Jesus preparing his disciples for his leaving them to return to the Father. This will enable them to enter into permanent communion with God. However, two of the disciples, Thomas and Philip, misunderstand his teaching, and this allows the evangelist to make it clearer. The only way to the Father is through Jesus. Jesus and the Father are so closely identified that to have seen Jesus is to have experienced the Father: the signs that Jesus worked have revealed the Father's glory to those who have been open to understanding them.

Jesus answers Thomas' objection about not knowing Jesus' destination – or perhaps destiny – so how can they know the way: he tells him that he is the Way; this is because he is the truth and the life – he is himself the ultimate Word, the saving revelation of God through whom believers will come to the Father and be one with God. ■

REFLECT

We are nearing the end of the Easter season, and our Gospel reading today sounds a warning bell that Jesus' departure is not far off. In the Gospel of John, his being lifted up will take place on the cross, but in our liturgical calendar, we mark this by the feast of the Ascension. In this section, Jesus is concerned about strengthening the faith of his disciples.

We might consider today the person of Philip. We came across him earlier in John's account of the story of Jesus at the feeding of the five thousand, and the meaning of that sign is that Jesus can satisfy the deepest needs and longings of the human spirit. Philip remarked then that 200 denarii's worth of bread would not satisfy the needs of the crowd. When he says to Jesus, "let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied," he is not saying that their curiosity or scepticism will be answered, but is asking that their deepest needs as human beings be fulfilled.

The Gospel of John is at the same time inspiring and challenging. When we read the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, we can come to the conclusion that being a disciple of Jesus is a matter of putting his teachings into practice. The Fourth Gospel is, in a sense, much more demanding. The various characters we come across, such as in today's extract, Thomas and Philip, are rather types of person than historical individuals: they represent different kinds of people and varying points of view. There is one individual who remains, significantly, anonymous and who stands for every disciple: that one is identified as the disciple Jesus loved; we might note that he is not called the disciple who loved Jesus. That person stands for each one of us, and in our reading today, Jesus tells us that he is preparing a place for us, where we will be in complete communion with him. What is required of us is faith, trust and commitment: in other words, love. ■

LEARN

The Gospel of John presents a completely different picture of Jesus and his ministry from that of the accounts of Mark, Matthew and Luke.

The mother of Jesus and the 'Beloved Disciple' are never identified as 'Mary' and 'John'.

They are presented at the cross as representative figures, the mother standing for the community, the unnamed disciple for the individual follower of Jesus.

DO

As you walk along the street, think about Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.



SAY

The word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted

(Psalm 32:4)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery
within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in
Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much
fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Ac 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
About this time, when the number of
disciples was increasing, the Hellenists
made a complaint against the Hebrews: in
the daily distribution their own widows were
being overlooked. So the Twelve called a
full meeting of the disciples and addressed
them, "It would not be right for us to neglect
the word of God so as to give out food; you,
brothers, must select from among yourselves
seven men of good reputation, filled with the
Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over
this duty to them, and continue to devote
ourselves to prayer and to the service of the
word." The whole assembly approved of
this proposal and elected Stephen, a man
full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together
with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon,
Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert
to Judaism. They presented these to the
apostles, who prayed and laid their hands
on them. The word of the Lord continued to
spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem
was greatly increased, and a large group of
priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 32

Response:

**May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.**

or
Alleluia!

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

If there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied." "Have I been with you all this time, Philip," said Jesus to him "and you still do not know me?

"To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father?" Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

"I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next three lines)

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;
on 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 catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we
pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with
heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



5th Sunday of Easter

Processional Hymn

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and our confidence alone.

2 Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory,
while unending ages run.

Gloria

Psalm

A musical score in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "Lord let your mer - cy be on us, as we place our trust in you," with a final fermata on the last note.

Refrain : We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.
Living; now we remain with Jesus the Christ.

1 Once we were people afraid, lost in the night.
Then by your cross we were saved;
Dead became living,
Life from your giving.

2 Something which we have known,
something we've touched,
What we have seen with our eyes:
This we have heard;
Life giving word.

3 He chose to give of himself,
became our bread.
Broken, that we might live.
Love beyond love,
Pain for our pain.

4We are the presence of God; this is
our call.
Now to become bread and wine:
Food for the hungry,
Life for the weary,
for to live with the Lord, we must die
with the Lord.

Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the World, have mer-cy on us.

world,— grant us peace,— grant us peace.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and
unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Refrain

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of
darkness;
You are the Word who leads us into light;
You are the Word who brings us thorough
the desert:
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

2 You are the Word who binds us and
unites us:
You are the Word who calls us to be
one;
You are the Word who teaches us
forgiveness:
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!