



Around the Word  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
 Eastertide, 2016

The I AM sayings of Jesus  
**John 14:1-14**

**On Living by Faith:**

*"But why is it that He went away to make such preparation, when, as it is certainly we ourselves that are the subjects in need of preparation, His doing so will be hindered by leaving us behind? I explain it, Lord, as I can: it was surely this Thou didst signify by the preparation of those mansions, that the just ought to live by faith. For he who is sojourning at a distance from the Lord has need to be living by faith, because by this we are prepared for beholding His countenance."*

—St. Augustine

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**Session 6: "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life"**

Ever notice how much we travel? It's a part of our everyday life. We leave home, drop the kids off at school, drive to work, drive back to get the kids, go to practice, and the list goes on. Our physical and spiritual lives are also a journey. We're born and we sojourn through life until death. In Holy Baptism we journey from being residents in the world of lost-ness, lies, and death to citizens in the kingdom of the Way, the Truth, and the Life in Jesus.

Jesus' work of salvation on our behalf is also a journey. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem and later Jerusalem and Egypt (Luke 2 and Matthew 2): there and back again. Jesus also journeyed into the wilderness for forty days as Israel did for forty years (Luke 4). And throughout his ministry Jesus went from town to town preaching the Good News that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Finally, Jesus' sojourn ended, or so it seemed, in Jerusalem. A Palm Sunday procession led to a Good Friday death march. But Jesus' journey for you did not end in a borrowed tomb. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus appeared to his disciples. And then Jesus ascended to heaven to prepare a place for you with him. For we who are lost in sin, Jesus is the way. For we who live and follow the lies of our sinful flesh and the devil, Jesus is the Truth. For we who live in the valley of the shadow of death, Jesus is our life.

**Opening: Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man  
 who walks not in the counsel of the |  
 wicked,\*

nor stands in the way of sinners,  
 nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;

<sup>2</sup>but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,\*  
 and on his law he meditates | day and  
 night.

<sup>3</sup>He is like a tree  
 planted by streams of water  
 that yields its fruit in its season,  
 and its leaf does not | wither.\*

In all that he does, he | prospers.

<sup>4</sup>The wicked | are not so,\*  
 but are like chaff that the wind | drives  
 away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the |  
 judgment,\*  
 nor sinners in the congregation of the |  
 righteous;

<sup>6</sup>for the LORD knows the way of the |  
 righteous,\*  
 but the way of the wicked will | perish.  
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy | Spirit.

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**Read John 14:1-14**

**v.1: "Let not your hearts be troubled.  
 Believe in God; believe also in me."**

Read John 13, the previous chapter. What is the context of Jesus' words in John 14? What is about to happen to him? Why were the disciples' hearts troubled? How does Jesus console them?

When Jesus says, "Believe in God; believe also in me", what is he telling us about his relationship with the Father? Where else does Jesus make this same important claim? See John 10:30 and John 17.

**v.2-3: In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**  
 This portion of John's Gospel is frequently

read at the bedside of the dying and at Christian funerals. What words of comfort does Jesus provide the disciples as he is about to face his own death on the cross? What words of comfort does he give us in the face of our death and grief?

**v.4-5: And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”**

Read John 12:27-36. What had the disciples been told about where Jesus was going? When would they finally understand what he had been teaching them all along? See John 20:24-31.

**v.6-7: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**

Read Isaiah 35. How does Jesus fulfill these words in his life, death, and resurrection? How is Jesus’ declaration that he is the Way more than a metaphor?

See Psalm 119:1-8 and John 17:17. Where do we find the truth that Jesus speaks about?

Where do we find life according to John’s Gospel? See John 10:10; John 1:1-5; John 3:1-15; John 6:48-51; John 20:24-31.

**v.8-9: Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

In the Old Testament, why could God not be seen face to face? See Exodus 33:12-23. According to the book of Hebrews (1:1-3), how does Jesus show us the Father? How are we able to see Jesus face to face and live? See 1 John 1:1-4. What were the disciples misunderstanding about Jesus’ words? What parts of the Nicene Creed reflect Jesus’ teaching in v.8-11?

**v.10-11: Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in**

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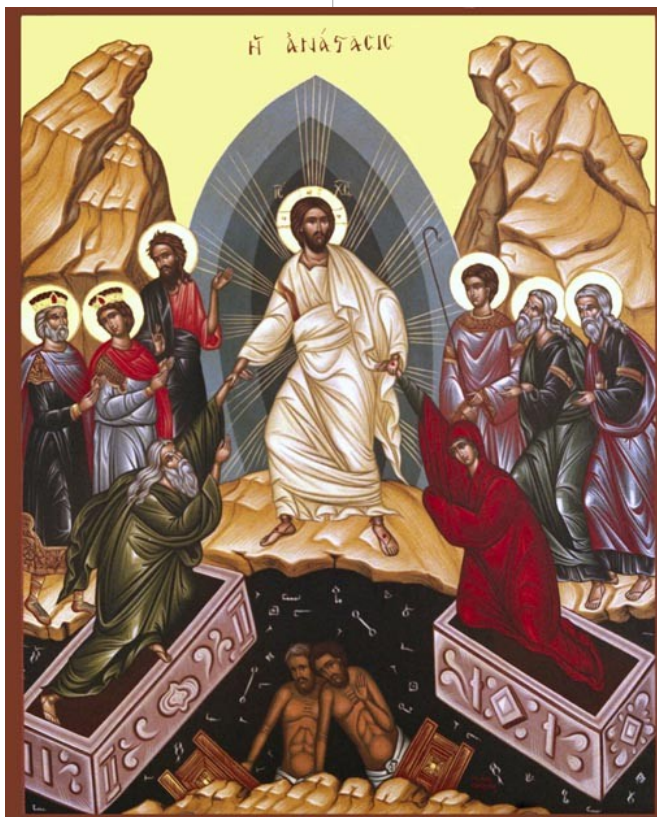
**me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.**

What are the works that Jesus was sent to do? What is the purpose of the works (i.e. signs or miracles) that Jesus performed? See also John 20:30-31.

**v.12-14: “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, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

How is the Father glorified in the Son? What are the greater works that the disciples will be doing in Jesus name after his ascension? See Luke 24:36-53; Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42.

How has Jesus taught us to ask for anything in his name? See Matthew 6:7-15. The Lord’s Prayer has been called the perfect prayer. How is that so? What does our Lord teach us to pray for in the Lord’s Prayer? Why is it comforting that Jesus teaches us to pray?



**Closing: Christ, the Word of God Incarnate (LSB 540; st. 5)**

Christ, the way that leads unailing  
To the Father’s home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,  
Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father,  
Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav’nly mansions,  
There to share Your wedding feast.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Rev. Samuel Schuldheisz ([samwise.schuldheisz@gmail.com](mailto:samwise.schuldheisz@gmail.com)) is the pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach, CA.