

"Come to the Lord!"

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled! Come to me! I am *the way, the truth, the life*. I have prepared a place for you, that you might be with me forever. Come to me! Come to me believing I am alive."

We know "with certainty" that Jesus is the *Way* that leads to the fullness of life, both now and forever. He is the *Truth*. What he tells us is true. He has seen the Father. In knowing him, we know the Father, we know God. Jesus teaches the truth that makes us free from the fears that paralyze us, the allurements of a culture which leads us into dead-end streets empty of life, the pressures which drive us to work without let-up, without conviction or joy, for the "bread that does not satisfy." We know "with certainty" that Jesus is the *Life*. He came that we might "have life, and have it to the full." He will give us what he promises—if we "come to the Lord" believing that he is alive.

Jesus is the "living stone," rejected by the world but approved and precious in God's eyes. He is—he must be for us—the cornerstone, the way we structure our lives. We need to make his words, example and mission the foundation of all our decisions, all the directions we take in life. He is the keystone of the arch, the cornerstone of our lives, the living stone present to us every moment of the day, penetrating our minds with truth, filling our hearts with love, giving strength and life and joy to everything we do.

We, too, are living stones.

We are not dead, inert building blocks to be hauled around by God and set in place in the Church to just "be there" until Jesus comes again. God has made us coworkers with Christ, prophets "full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom" in order to share Jesus' truth with others, show others his way and be a community of love

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5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9;
John 14:1-12

and truth. We do so by celebrating his Resurrection, living his risen life, bearing witness to his presence in the world, living his teachings joyfully, proclaiming in word and action the glorious works of God, who calls the world from darkness into his marvelous light.

We are "a chosen race." God has selected us, chosen us, gifted us with Baptism to live as the Body of Christ on earth, to continue his mission. We are "a royal priesthood." We are ordained and consecrated by God, each one of us, to offer together until the end of time the Holy Sacrifice which redeems the world. In every Mass, we join with Jesus in lifting up to the Father the sins of the world. We offer ourselves with Jesus as priests in the Priest, victims in the Victim, our flesh with his, given for the life of the world—given to others, offered in love, sacrificed passionately in our every word and action so that others may have life.

We are "a royal priesthood." We are stewards of

the kingship of Jesus the Lord, who came to establish his loving reign over every area and activity of human life. We are sent to transform, to consecrate every human undertaking on earth. We are priests who lift up the bread of human labor, love and dreams so that every human activity may be transformed by grace into

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life-giving bread for the world: life without end, life to the full. When we consecrate bread at Eucharist to be the Body of Christ, we also consecrate ourselves as the Body of Christ, bread for the world. We sacrifice ourselves to the work of transforming society until Christ is all in all.

Why should our hearts be troubled? Jesus has promised to keep doing in us and through us the works he did. And we will do “greater works than these” if we come to the Lord believing he is alive in us and we are alive in him.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Fifth Week of Easter

Pray daily: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed to the nations your saving power and filled all ages with the words of a new song. Give us voice to sing your praise throughout this season of joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday: John 14:21-26. Jesus said, “[T]hose who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” Do you believe that Jesus will draw you into intimacy with himself in knowledge and love if you invite him? Have you invited him?

Tuesday: John 14:27-31. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Do you experience his peace? Do you believe in his words? Do you read them?

Wednesday: John 15:1-8. “I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit...” How do you “abide in Christ”? How would you affect others if you were always consciously aware of Christ’s presence in you?

Thursday: John 15:9-11. “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.” How often do you deliberately recall and believe in God’s love for you?

Friday: John 15:12-17. “I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.” Do you believe Jesus delights in sharing his heart—his thoughts, feelings, desires and dreams—with you? Do you want to share yourself with those you love? Does Jesus feel the same way?

Saturday: John 15:18-21. “If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you.” Jesus is the stone rejected by the world’s builders but approved by God. Do you tend to forget about him because our culture ignores him? When you base your choices on him, do you experience intimacy with God?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Plan how you can make Jesus the cornerstone of your life. What are your key goals or motives at work? At home? In your social life? How can Jesus transform them?

As Disciple: Ask what you can do to become “full of the Spirit and wisdom.” What books could help you in this? Are there Scripture study groups you could join? Adult religious education talks you could attend?

As Prophet: Each morning choose one particular area of your life—home, work, recreation, civic life—where you can proclaim the glorious works of Christ. Choose an action which will speak without need of words.

As Priest: Consciously offer yourself with the bread and wine at the Offertory of the Mass, and again with Christ when his Body and Blood are lifted up at the Consecration. Be given, offered and lovingly sacrificed for the good of others at home, at work, at play.

As King: Ask how Jesus can work through your special gifts and situation to extend his reign in the world. Try to improve something in your environment.