

6th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

John 14:15-21

**Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our
Father and our Risen and Victorious Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.**

Amen

**Will you pray with me? May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your
sight O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.**

Amen

**The Text for our sermon is from the Gospel lesson
read earlier. I would like to read again.**

**“[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my
commandments.**

**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another
Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees**

him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Today’s Gospel lesson is a continuation of the discussion Jesus had with his disciples, on the night of the institution of the Lord’s Supper, the night he would be betrayed. Their hearts and minds were indeed troubled. They had great fear, fear of what was going to happen to Jesus, here in Jerusalem. Their fear and concern was also for themselves. Would the confrontation between Jesus and the authorities spill over into their own lives.

What is it in your own lives, the causes fear and worries? Is it Family issues, illness, finances, physical disability, or the concerns of growing older or a Global pandemic. Our gospel lesson teaches us that because Jesus and the Father are one, we have seen God, through our Lord Jesus Christ and he has given us the Holy Spirit to hold fast to His Word, and all that He taught. Jesus says to His disciples and to us, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,” That helper, also called the comforter by Jesus, works with the Word of God, Jesus himself, to reveal and teach us all that Jesus was and is.

We receive that Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost through the Word, That Word proclaimed from the pulpit and taught in our Bible Classes. But that is not the only place He works. He is there also in the sacraments. In Holy Baptism, the Triune God, works with the simple

water, one of the essential forms of matter, and combines it with The Word, and thus makes it a powerful and life saving action. God in the waters of Holy Baptism, through the hearing of this word, Gives to us the Holy Spirit, who works in us our Faith and forgives our sins. This is the gift of God, it cannot be earned. By our sinful nature, that which comes from the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, who were created by God, perfect. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, wanting to be God themselves, they fell into sin. The sin, called original sin, is in the nature of all mankind. God had given commands to Adam and Eve, and He also gave His Ten Commandment through Moses to His people. These commandments were written so that God's will would be known and that in keeping them God's people would be safe. The first three commandments relate to our relationship to God the Creator and sustainer of all things. The final seven

commandments teach us how to live with our neighbor. We so often fail to follow God's will, neglecting God, by putting other things before God, and when we fail to love and help our neighbor. This failure is sin, just like the first sin, we think that we are the most important thing is this world, rather than God. When the Holy Spirit comes to us in our Baptism through God's Word, we are restored to God as his Children. Children of the Heavenly Father, washed of our sins, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Let us return to the first verse of our text. We have been speaking of The Ten Commandments, and our failure to follow them. We have all be baptized, and have received the Holy Spirit and faith. So how do we handle the verse 15, "[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."? He does not demand this out of our fear of punishment, but out of our love of Jesus. As He said in last week's lesson, "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.” We will continue to sin, but what Jesus is telling us is that by His Word and His Holy Spirit and through prayer we have been empowered to deny the temptations of the devil and to resist sin. But note here that Jesus says, my commandments or precepts. Here is referring to all that he had taught the disciples in His three years with them. Luther says, “Christ says, “I do not impose anything else on you. I ask and demand no more than this one thing, that you faithfully preach about Me, watch over My Word and Sacrament, show affection and harmony among one another for My sake, and patiently bear the adversities that this entails for you.”

How do we faithfully preach about Jesus and watch over His Word and Sacrament? Simply by remaining faithful to the Holy Scriptures and proclaim His Word. St. Paul wrote to Timothy and said to him, “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” While this letter was written to Timothy a pastor in the Early Church, its message is the answer and the warning about the significance of God’s Word, and how it will be

twisted by some, for their own gain.

Jesus had told his disciples that he would be departing, and he did on that Good Friday, when he died for the sins of all mankind on the cross of Calvary. He returned on Easter morning to declare His victory of over death and to assure us of our own resurrections. He spent 40 days with His disciples, connecting the dots for them. Then he left them again, ascending into heaven. But He remains present with us in His Word, and in the Holy Sacraments. He told them, and us, ““I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” By the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, we as

individuals and as the Communion of Saints, who have been forgiven and empowered, by His Word, are Loved by the Father and promised eternal life with him in heaven.

Amen

Now may the peace of God which surpasses all human understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

Amen