

6th Sunday of Easter
“Alive in Christ John 14:19
May 10, 2026
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 6th Sunday of Easter is from our Gospel reading, John 14:19.

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”

So far our text:

“You will live also”. We have been hearing Jesus speak a lot about life these past Sundays. Two Sundays ago, we heard Jesus tell us that He is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. Why did He do that? Because the sheep had gone astray in sin. We had gone astray. But Jesus came to rescue us. So He said in John 10:

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

And then in the next chapter in John 11, we heard how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and gave him life. And we remember these words that He spoke to Martha.

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”

Sin causes death. And the eternal consequence of sin is hell. So we heard in our epistle from 1 Peter 3 that when Jesus came alive in the tomb, He descended into hell, into the eternal prison of torment, and proclaimed His victory and judgement to those who were disobedient.

“18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient”.

God doesn't want anyone to lose life eternally. Jesus died for all people! The Just for the unjust once and for all! The world perished during the flood except for Noah and his family who believed in God. And, as Peter now tells us that water now saves us! How? Through baptism!

“21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

How can your conscience be at peace? Only through Jesus forgiveness. The very first words Jesus spoke to His disciples were “Peace be with you” as He showed them His hands that had won the peace between God and man on Mount Calvary.

And again, baptism can only save your soul and not just wash your skin, through the resurrection of Jesus. Because Jesus lives, you who believe in Him live! Your baptism assures you that you live now and eternally!

Jesus removed the sting of death by His death on the cross and rose again to show that in Him there is life...in Him alone. So Paul wrote in Romans 6:

“9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6:9-11

Alive to God, believer in Jesus, that is who you are. Because Jesus lives so do you...now and eternally! So Jesus told us plainly last week that **“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

Again, God the Father wants all people to come Him through His Son Jesus. In our first reading from Acts 17, Paul, on his 2nd missionary journey was travelling through Athens. And what he saw provoked him greatly. He saw many false idols. He saw an altar to the Unknown god. From this Greek word comes the word agnosticism – the understanding that there is a higher being but unable to know this being.

Paul felt an urgency in his spirit to reveal the true God – the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit that they would come to the Father through Jesus, the Way the Truth and the Life. For all those in Athens were sheep gone astray.

So what did Paul do? He went to the synagogues and market place and reasoned with them...conversed with them, dialogued with them...Jews and Gentiles alike. He spoke God's Word to them. For the philosophers of that time were searching for happiness in life and were eager to hear anything new that would fill that void that they were trying to fill with man's endless babbling.

Stoics and Epicureans.

“Stoicism is an ancient Greek and Roman philosophy (founded by Zeno of Citium) that acts as a practical guide to living a virtuous, rational, and resilient life. It teaches that happiness comes from focusing solely on what is within our control—our thoughts and reactions—while accepting external events with equanimity.”

The Stoic believes that moderation and courage brings happiness in life.

“Epicureanism is an ancient Greek philosophical system founded by Epicurus in the 4th century B.C.E. that advocates for a life of moderate pleasure, friendship, and wisdom to achieve happiness, which is defined as the absence of pain (aponia) and mental anxiety (ataraxia). It emphasizes a simple life, a materialist worldview, and the rejection of fear of the gods or death.”

Basically happiness comes from avoiding things that cause pain or fear. And that includes not believing that there is a divine punishment.

What do you see in the world around you? Do these philosophies manifest themselves in different ways today in the lives of people who are searching for happiness? True happiness can never be found in the empty philosophies of men. True happiness only comes through the Holy Spirit, the Comforter who imparts life and peace and joy and every blessing to those who receive His word. Jesus said.

“17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

So what did Paul do again? He went to where the people were and daily talked with them about Jesus. The same Jesus dwells in you. Are you urged to by the Holy Spirit to give a defense of Him who has given you life when you see the worthless idols that people follow? When you see them following man-made philosophies that do not give true happiness and blessings from God?

What's the next step. Follow the Spirit's guiding and go to where the people are...market places, flea markets...our baseball field across the street...where people congregate and you have an opportunity to visit with them. Nowadays it's more difficult to visit at the supermarket because a lot of people have everything delivered to their door! But where can you spend time with people who have gone astray?

As God's royal priesthood, you are to pray that God will open the door for you and give you the words to proclaim His marvelous works!

So Paul began:" **22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.**

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

On the hill dedicated to the Greek god of war, Ares, later renamed Mars hill by the Romans, to the Roman god of war... Paul proclaimed what the true God did on the hill of Mount Calvary!

"in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

There is a judgement day where all will be held accountable. But to those who repent of their sins, you are judged by the righteousness of Christ who was raised from the dead for all people. And in Him you have life. For He lives!

This is your message through faith in Jesus. Because He lives, you also will live now and eternally.

So John also wrote in his first epistle, chapter 4: **“5 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”**

And that is happiness, true happiness that God abides with you, that God loves you and God is in you, now and eternally! What a life it is to be a Christian! Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)