



**I Am the Way
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020**

By Mary Dahl

Parish member for 28 years, active in music and homebound ministries, volunteer project manager, parish council member, and lay leader of prayer.

My Theme: I Am the Way (based on John 14:4-6, 12)

Jesus said to his disciples: *"...Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me... Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."*

Reflection

The conversation above, between Jesus and his disciples, takes place after Jesus has washed the feet of his disciples, and told them that He will be with them "only a little while longer". Peter and the other disciples then question him as to where he is going; why they can't come along; and how they will know the way when they are to follow him. Then he tells them that he is the way and he is going to the Father.

When I was a kid and our family was going to go on a trip, my sister and I would pull out the map and trace the route that we would be taking. We would find our destination, check the mileage between different towns, add them up, and figure out how long the trip would take. Every once in a while though, my Dad would take a different route, and the journey changed. There was always some uncertainty for us then, not knowing the way or how long it would take, but it was exciting to be making the trip together and we trusted that our dad would get us there.

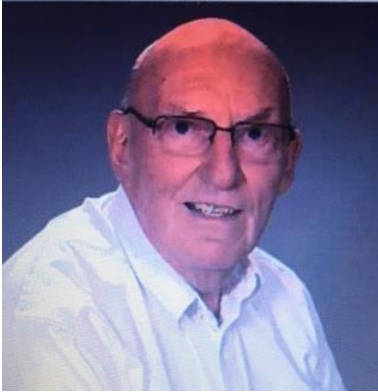
As I have gotten older and had to make decisions for myself, I sometimes question what I should be doing, where I am headed. When this happens, I try to keep two things in mind. First, that I have the words of Jesus to guide me,

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.”
Second, I am not alone on my journey; I have a whole world of disciples traveling with me.

Could it be that following Jesus is really that simple? Even now?

Closing Prayer: Lord, help me always remember that You are the way and I am not alone. I have simply to travel in your footsteps, do the works that you did, enjoy the companionship of other disciples, and bask in the peace that comes from following you.

Call to Action: Take some time to pray about the next “trip” in your journey as a Christian. What might it be -- a deeper prayer life, volunteering at church or in the community, helping or praying for someone? Jesus and his disciples frequently traveled together. Who should you be inviting to travel with you on this journey?



The Ascension of the Lord

By Deacon Dick Meier

Dick Meier has been a member of our parish since 1979. He was ordained as a Deacon in 2000 and has served our parish in this role for more than 20 years now.

My Theme: The Ascension of the Lord (Acts of the Apostles: 1:1-11)

Reflection

We hear the story of the culmination of the life of Jesus on earth as he is lifted up to heaven. However, His memory remains with us through His life, His teaching and His Spirit. Our gospel from Matthew (28:16-20) today tells of His final instructions to His apostles. He says preach (make disciples), baptize and teach. We are the beneficiaries of that. We have been baptized. We have been taught through the gospels and the writings of St. Paul as well as the letters of the other apostles. We are taught through the writings of many of the saints including those of St. Augustine, the patron saint of our diocese.

Jesus has physically left us. However, He remains with us. He has left us His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to guide us. It was this Spirit that guided the early church. St. Paul received all of his early instruction through the Spirit. Jesus remains with us as He says in the gospel, "I am with you always until the end of the age." We are never alone. Jesus walks with us all the time. He remains with us in our joys, troubles and triumphs and even when we are walking the wrong path.

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank you for all the gifts you continue to heap upon us. We thank you for your unending love. We ask that you help us see the needs of others and respond to them as you would.

Call to Action: Look for Christ in those around us: those that are doing good things. They do not have to be great things. Then acknowledge them with a smile, a kind word, a call or a card.



The Glory of God

By Cathy Koerpel

Parishioner since 1973, Eucharistic Minister and Reader

My Theme: The Glory of God (based on 1Corinthians 2:9-10)

Reflection:

The Glory of God. What IS the Glory of God? Have you ever had an experience of beauty that felt like a glimpse of Heaven? Or a moment in the busyness of life that felt like a graced moment? These moments are the Glory of God manifesting in our lives. The question is whether we are noticing them when they appear before us.

I remember a short time ago I was driving home from work just as the sun was setting. As I neared the house, I came around a bend in the road and the sky was so glorious that I just wanted to jump out of the car and go be a part of it. I clearly remember thinking that this had to be a taste of the beauty of Heaven.

Another time I was driving to see my kids in the Twin Cities and I was on Hwy 51. We had been having days and days and days of cloudy skies and that day was just like the others. About an hour into the drive a narrow opening in the sky appeared and I could clearly see a blue sky. I thought to myself - this is what Heaven must be like ... beauty reaching down to us in the midst of this life to grace us with God's Glory.

The greatest example of the Glory of God in my life, however, was the awe that was present with the birth of each of our children. The miracle I held in my arms. Truly the Glory of God was made manifest in each one of them.

Sometimes the Glory of God shows up in the small things and sometimes it arrives in big ways, or - is it always present? What a delightful challenge we are faced with each day ... to find the Glory of God within our lives.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Glory. Thank you for blessing us with glimpses of Heaven in moments when we least expect them. May we live each day with our eyes and hearts open to the wonder of your Glory, which surrounds us and is in us. We thank you for the gift of salvation that your Son gave us through his life, death and resurrection ...the greatest reminder of your Glory.

Call to Action: God wants us to experience His Glory. What experiences have you had that have given you a taste of His Glory? I invite you to spend some time this week opening yourself to see and experience the Glory of God surrounding you and within you. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the mind of Jesus and let yourself experience the awe that is waiting for you.

*“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard
what God has ready for those who love him;
Spirit of love, come, give us the mind of Jesus,
teach us the wisdom of God.”*