



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 know me, you would also know my Father.”

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THE COMMON SERVICE

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock upon which God builds his Church.

HYMN 356

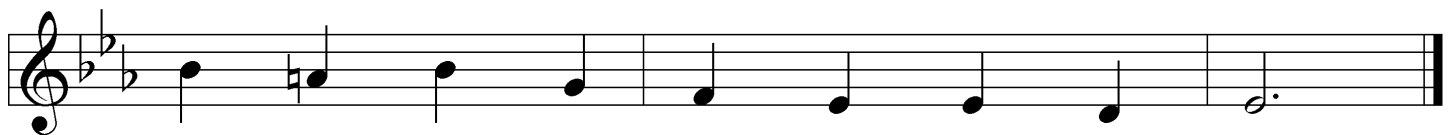
"You Are the Way; through You Alone"



1 You are the way; through you a - lone Can
2 You are the truth; your Word a - lone True
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant



we the Fa - ther find; In you, O Christ, has
wis - dom can im - part. You on - ly can in -
claims your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that



God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.

Tune: DUNDEE (CM) *The CL Psalms of David*, Edinburgh, 1615.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

**C: Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



GLORY BE TO GOD *Gloria in Excelsis*

C: **Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, your great glory,
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father;
have mercy on us.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

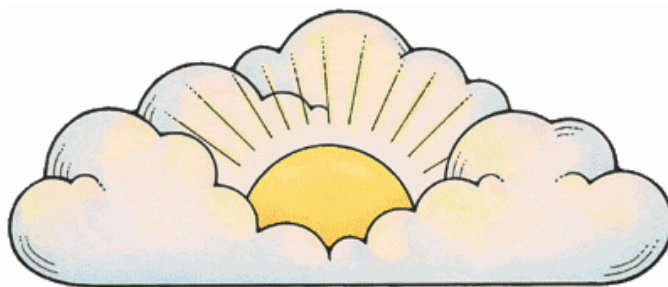
C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON 1 Kings 18:16-45

Ahab and Jezebel had institutionalized idolatry and persecution on a national scale. To people worshiping a false god of the storm, God sent his prophet to announce his judgment: There would be no rain.

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and he informed him. Then Ahab came to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, the one who brings trouble on Israel?"

¹⁸ Elijah said, "It is not I who have brought trouble on Israel, but rather you and your father's house, because you abandoned the LORD's commandments and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ But now gather all Israel before me on Mount Carmel, along with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." ²⁰ So Ahab sent word to all the people of Israel, and he assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

²¹ Then Elijah said to all the people, "How long will you stagger around on two crutches? If the LORD is God, follow him. If Baal is God, follow him." But the people did not answer him a single word.

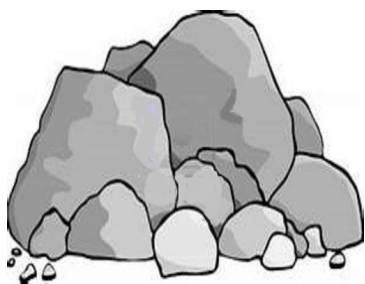
²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only one left of the LORD's prophets, but the prophets of Baal total four hundred fifty men. ²³ Provide two bulls for us. Let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it up and place it on the firewood, but they are not to light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the firewood, but I will not light the fire. ²⁴ Then you will call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers with fire, he is God."

All the people said, "This proposal is good."

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull, and you go first because there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god. But do not light the fire."

²⁶ So they took the bull which had been given to them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, "Baal! Answer us!" But there was not a sound. No one answered. So they staggered around the altar which they had made.

²⁷ When noon came, Elijah mocked them: "Shout louder! He is a god, isn't he? He may be deep in thought or busy or on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and will wake up!" ²⁸ So they cried out with a loud voice, and according to their practice they cut themselves with daggers and spears until their blood flowed. ²⁹ After noon, they kept up a prophetic frenzy until the time of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound. No one answered. There was no response.



³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." So they came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come and had proclaimed, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² He built the stones into an altar in the name of the LORD. Around it he made a trench big enough to hold about twenty-five pounds of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood.

Then he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the sacrifice and on the wood." ³⁴ Then he said, "Do it again." So they did it again. Then he said, "Do it a third time."

So they did it a third time. ³⁵ The water flowed all around the altar. It even filled the trench.

³⁶ When the time of the evening sacrifice had arrived, Elijah the prophet stood up and said, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and that I have done all these things by your word. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you are turning their hearts back to you."



³⁸ Fire from the LORD fell on the sacrifice and on the wood, the stones, and the dirt. It even licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell on their knees and said, "The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!"

⁴⁰ Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape!" So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Kishon River and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for I hear the sound of a heavy rainstorm." ⁴² So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. He bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ He said to his servant, "Go up and look toward the sea."

So his servant went up and looked, and he said, "There is nothing."

But seven times Elijah told him, "Go again."

⁴⁴ On the seventh time the servant said, "There is a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea."

Then Elijah said to him, "Go up and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down so that the rain does not stop you.'"

⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the skies got dark with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab got into his chariot and went to Jezre'el.

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 33

The earth is full of the goodness of God,
the goodness of our God.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

The earth is full of the goodness of God,
the goodness of our God.

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The earth is full of the goodness of God,
the goodness of our God.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:4-10

The world rejects Jesus because of his claims of being the one way, the one truth, the one life.



⁴ As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷ Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

⁸ and,

a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

GOSPEL John 14:1-12

Jesus bids farewell to his disciples on the night he was betrayed. He tries to set their hearts at rest and tells them to trust God and him regarding this departure. But the disciples' faith is clouded by doubt and false hopes.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!



"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴ You know where I am going, and you know the way."

⁵ "Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."

⁹ "Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

¹² "Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.



BE SEATED

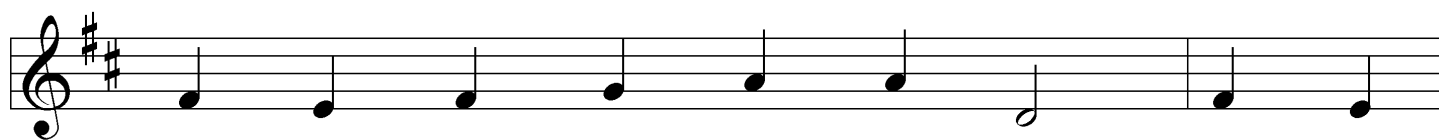
HYMN OF THE DAY 141 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"



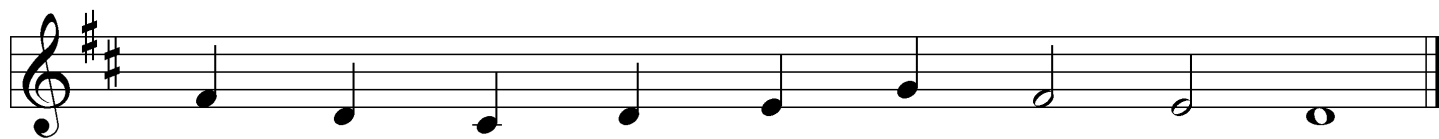
1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,
3 Now no more can death ap - pall,
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy!
5 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.
Now no more the grave en - thrall;
This a - lone can sin de - stroy;
Sav - ior, by whose death we live,



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing
You have con - quered in the fight; You have
You have o - pened par - a - dise, And your
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, New - born
Spir - it, guide through all our days, Three in



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th century, abr.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Tune: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT (77 77 4) *Kirchengeseng*, Ivancice, 1566.

SERMON

STAND

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

During this time of not meeting together physically, you can mail your offering to the church address or call Pastor to drop it off at church.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever.**

Amen.

BE SEATED

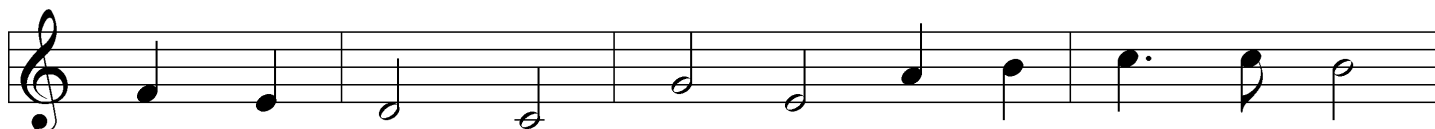


HYMN 167

"Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de-fense And my Sav - ior,
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to
 3 No, too close - ly am I bound Un - to him by
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn Un - to dust, whence
 5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new With this flesh then



now is liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
 life shall wak - en. End - less joy my Sav - ior gives;
 hope for - ev - er; Faith's strong hand the rock has found,
 I am tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern
 be en - shroud - ed; In this bod - y I shall view



Rests up - on the hope he's giv - ing, Though the night of
 Shall my cour-age, then, be shak - en? Shall I fear, or
 Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er. E - ven death now
 That from death I shall a - wak - en With my Sav - ior
 God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; In this flesh I



death be fraught Still with many an anx - ious thought.
 could the head Rise and leave his mem - bers dead?
 can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.
 to a - bide In his glo - ry, at his side.
 then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: *D. M. Luthers . . . Geistliche Lieder und Psalmen*, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4-5.

Tune: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

STAND

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

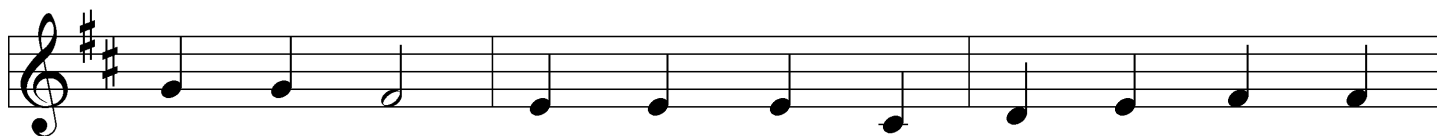
C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN 508

"Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd"



1 Gra - cious Sav - ior, gen - tle Shep - herd, Chil - dren all are
2 Ten - der Shep-herd, nev - er leave them, Nev - er let them
3 By your ho - ly Word in - struct them; Fill their minds with
4 Taught to love the ho - ly prais - es Which on earth your



dear to you; May your lov - ing arms en - fold them
go a - stray; By your warn - ing love di - rect - ed,
heav'n - ly light. By your pow'r - ful grace con - vince them
chil - dren sing, With their lips and hearts, sin - cere - ly,



In your care their whole life through. Gent - ly tend and
May they walk the nar - row way. Thus di - rect them,
Al - ways to ap - prove what's right. Let them feel your
Glad thank - of - f'rings may they bring, Then with all the



safe - ly keep them In your mer - cy strong and true.
thus de - fend them Lest they fall an eas - y prey.
yoke is eas - y; Let them find your bur - den light.
saints in glo - ry Join to praise their Lord and King.

Text: Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, abr., adapt., alt.

Tune: SIEH, HIER BIN ICH, EHRENKÖNIG (87 87 87) *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1698.





The One Way to Heaven: Jesus Christ, Crucified and Risen

God's Word for Today

I am the way, the truth, and the life. Christ's message is so exclusive that it rejects all others. There is only one way to the Father, and that way is a person. He does not say, 'I show you the way,' like a second Moses, but I am the way. Nor 'I have the truth,' like another Elijah, but I am the truth. Not only 'I lead unto life,' as one of his apostles, but I am the life. (Kögel) The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock against which the unbelieving world crushes itself, but upon which God builds his Church.

First Lesson (1 Kings 18:16-45)

1. What insights do you gain from this account regarding Jesus as the only way to heaven?

Second Lesson (1 Peter 2:4-10)

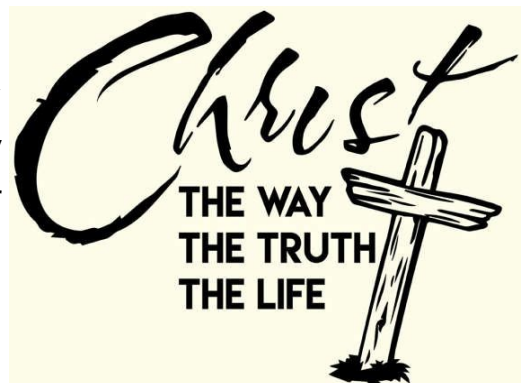
2. What description does Peter give of all who are joined to Christ by faith?
3. According to Peter, to what purpose did God call us, his own people, out of darkness? (v. 9)

Gospel (John 14:1-12)

4. Why was Jesus' departure not a source of sorrow but a reason for rejoicing?
5. Must we wait for eternal life to be united with Jesus?
6. What is the comfort of knowing that a place in heaven exists with our name on it?
7. Jesus calls himself "*the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*" What is the significance of the three definite articles?

Answers:

1. Ahab and Jezebel had institutionalized idolatry and persecution on a national scale. God sent judgment on these people who worshipped a false god of the storm in the form of a drought. After three years, famine crippled the kingdom. God sent Elijah to a showdown with Ahab and his false prophets. No matter their outward show of power or prestige, 450 prophets and the might of royalty could not change the spiritual reality that there is one way, one truth, one life. Even today, a whole world of false teachers and TV bible scholars cannot change the spiritual reality that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
2. He describes them as living stones being built into a spiritual house. Believers are like a temple in which God dwells and where living sacrifices are continually being offered to him.
3. God called us to declare his praises, that is, to tell the whole world what he has done for us through Jesus Christ our Lord.
4. He was leaving in order to prepare for them a place in his Father's house. And, he added, he would return and take them to the place he had prepared. There they would all be together again!
5. In John 14:23 Jesus stated that he and the Father will come to us and make their home with us. Thus the mystic union is a reality already in this life.
6. Things in this life come and go, they change, they see decay. But our God is our one constant in our lives. What comfort to know that beyond this ever-changing world we have a place prepared for us by Christ in heaven.
7. It clearly points out that Jesus is the only way to heaven. He is the world's one and only Savior (Luke 2:32). Only through Christ our Savior do we ever come to the Father.



**During these unprecedented times,
please call the church office at 920-787-3856
or email at peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com
with concerns, questions, and prayer requests.
We may not be physically in the office every day, but we are
still here for each of you.**

**Visit our website at www.wautomapecelutheran.org or visit
our Facebook page for updates and other information.**

**Things are changing at a very rapid pace and we will do our
best to keep everyone informed of any changes to our
cancellations.**

