

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (v5)*

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, & the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, & to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again & will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him & have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, & we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, & you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” <sup>10</sup>“Do you not believe that I am in the Father & the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father & the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit***

- How does this passage build on what we’ve already heard from Jesus?  
*See John 1:1-18, 8:12-58, 10:1-38, 11:21-45*
- V12 promises “greater works than these”, referring to the number of works, not the more “impressive” or more “miraculous” nature of them. Review what the works are (*John 6:29*). How does this come true? *See Matthew 17:14-21; John 5:20-47, esp. vv20, 36; Acts 2:22-27, 4:32-37, 5:12-16; Romans 13:8-14; Ephesians 2:10; Revelation 7:13-14, 19:6-8*

**EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ***

- A Christian pop song includes the lyrics “I’m trading my sorrows I’m trading my shame I’m laying them down for the joy of the Lord” How do today’s readings explain & illustrate these lyrics?  
*(Trading My Sorrows words & music by Darryl Evans ©1998 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music)*
- What shameful sufferings have you endured that on/in Jesus’ way, truth, & life (v6) have ceased to be stumbling blocks (*1 Peter 2:8*) & are now built on the cornerstone (*1 Peter 2:6*)? In other words, things that once were impediments to faithfulness now reveal God’s mercy to you (*2 Peter 2:10*)?

**NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters***

- How does God’s removal of our shame for suffering (in the eyes of the world) & his calling us to be his royal priesthood (*1 Peter 2:9-10*) give hope to those who suffered at the hands of their mothers/stepmothers/grandmothers/those like a mother etc.? How can their newfound worth give the courage reach out to others still suffering & ashamed? How can your “scars” of suffering equip you for this proclaiming of his mighty acts?
- Check-in for *Corona Virus Challenge* Make it your goal to reach out to one other person in the congregation (not in your home/family) each day during these restrictions. How has this gone for you? How have others received your care & concern for them? How has it gotten easier or harder? If you haven’t tried or (tried very hard) what has prevented you? What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain?  
**Make a list of 7 folks to contact this week that you haven’t reached out to in the last 30 days.**

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

05.10.20

Series: Death Has Lost Its Sting

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Suffering without Shame

*Mothers know purposeful suffering;  
there is no shame in suffering for the sake of Life*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: If I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again & will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. (v3)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

I am the way, the truth, & the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me. (*John 14:6*)

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