

**THE ONLY PATH TO PEACE**  
**I. We Find Peace in Christ Alone**  
**II. We Find Christ in the Word Alone**  
**III. In This Way, Christ Gives Us True Peace**  
John 14:23-31

**SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020 | PENTECOST**

**THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

<i>Old Testament</i>	Joel 2:28–32
<i>Psalm</i>	Psalm 143
<i>New Testament</i>	Acts 2:1–13
<i>Gospel</i>	John 14:23–31

**GRANTS PASS**

The Entrance Hymn or Introit – ELH 2 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Chief Hymn – ELH 33 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

Closing Hymn – ELH 402 Holy Ghost, with Light Divine

**MEDFORD**

Psalm 143, p 118

Opening Hymn - CW 176 Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Hymn of the Day – CW 190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

Closing Hymn - CW 183 Holy Spirit, Light Divine

Faith & Our Savior Lutheran Churches

Medford & Grants Pass, Oregon

Edward L. Bryant, Pastor

2 John 3 (CSB) “<sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”

John 14:23–31 (CSB)

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> The one who doesn’t love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

<sup>27</sup> “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful. <sup>28</sup> You have heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me.’ <sup>31</sup> On the contrary, so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me.

“Get up; let’s leave this place.

Dear Fellow Redeemed: “Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” These are the words with which Paul greeted Timothy, and with which I greet you regularly on these Sunday mornings. Grace, mercy and peace are among the gifts God gives us through His word, and the last, His peace He especially mentions as a gift coming to us through the Holy Spirit.

<sup>25</sup> “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

<sup>27</sup> **“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.”**

For us, peace is elusive. When we hear “peace,” some think of an end to war, others to personal peace, (Don’t bother me!) still others to the peace of living a blameless life. In my experience I see people in every state of chaos, upheaval, and turbulence of life – the opposite of peace.

Where shall they find peace? Living and dealing with people who constantly disapprove. Living with a bad temper- ours or someone else’s. Living with abusive people. Living with our values under siege. Living with family who keep making wrong choices. “Feeling upset.” Living with anxiety and other emotional upheaval. Walking on eggshells with some people. Where shall we find peace.

Jesus here speaks of ...

### **THE ONLY PATH TO PEACE**

#### **I. We Find Peace in Christ Alone**

#### **II. We Find Christ in the Word Alone**

#### **III. In This Way, Christ Gives Us True Peace**

## I. We Find Peace in Christ Alone

The world follows many paths in search of peace. The U.N. War to bring peace. Divorce. Psychotherapy. Socioterapy. Anti-anxiety meds. Counseling. You name it. But the peace of Christ is something different. It is a peace that transcends everything. It is the peace that we can have in the midst of battle, when facing the withering disapproval of others, when suffering from anxiety or depression, or worried you will get sick. The apostles were persecuted struggled with friction in the church, and the pietism and disapproval of others.

The peace of Christ is of a different thing altogether. <sup>27</sup> **“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives,”** Jesus said.

Paul wrote to the Philippians about seeking this peace. Understand that he had been persecuted, beaten, stone into unconsciousness, arrested, imprisoned, and threatened with execution. Here is what he taught his people in Philippi: **“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses [transcends] all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 4:4–7, CSB)

This is an echo of Proverbs 3, **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding;”** (Proverbs 3:5, CSB)

So you see, this is a matter of faith. We put our trust in Christ. Jesus repeatedly said something like this to His disciples: <sup>29</sup> **I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe.** The disciples would find themselves in horrible situations, persecuted, hated, . Then they were to know that above all, Christ is Lord.

The peace of Christ transcends everything. We have the peace of Christ even when we have no other peace. It is a peace of faith and we can see it in several ways:

- God loves you whether you feel like it or not, even if you feel condemned.
- You are forgiven because Christ is risen, even when the Devil, your friends, and even your own conscience condemns you. Yes, even when you ARE guilty.
- You have a future, even when destitute, even when dying.
- You have hope, even when there is no hope on earth.
- When your feelings of anxiety, depression, agitation, and the like overcome you, you can know and believe that the Lord is merciful and that this too, shall pass.
- When we are lonely, we can take on faith Jesus’ promise, “I will never leave you or forsake you.

That’s what we mean by transcendent. This is the peace of Christ, of knowing Christ, and trusting in His promises. And ....

## II. We Find Christ in the Word Alone

So if Christ alone can bring us to God, how can we find Christ? Pentecost, this day which we celebrate, is itself the answer - we find Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit - and the Spirit works alone through His word.

This was the point of Jesus’ discussion in our text. He is answering one of the disciples who asked Him why He made such a point of revealing himself to them, and not to the world at large. The reason is that He will be leaving; so He says: <sup>25</sup> **“I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.**

Jesus taught us to pray, “*Thy kingdom come.*” His kingdom is the true kingdom of peace, as He is the Prince of Peace. How does His kingdom come? Luther explained it this way, “*The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.*” The Holy Spirit’s work is to bring God’s kingdom, the kingdom of which Christ is king, to us.

We live, now, in an earthly kingdom, where there is conflict, pain, sorrow, sickness, loss, failures, and sin. The end of life in this kingdom is death, and here there is no peace. But **transcending** this kingdom is the kingdom which we are part of by faith, and this is the kingdom of life and peace. Here there is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In this kingdom we possess the righteousness of Christ, and are at peace with God.

It is because we are subjects of this kingdom that we can have peace even in a world afflicted with turmoil, conflict, and hostility. It is because this kingdom has come to you by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can rejoice that whatever we suffer from today, deliverance is ours in God’s good time.

As we said, this kingdom comes to us by the Holy Spirit, and He works through His word. As the apostles were the teachers of the church and have written this word, the Holy Spirit is the teachers of the apostles, as Jesus said, <sup>26</sup> **But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.** So it follows that the apostles taught the word of God, as Paul wrote, “***We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.***” (1 Corinthians 2:13, CSB)

So we find Christ and His peace that transcends the tumult of this world through His word.

### **III. In This Way, Christ Gives Us True Peace**

Because of this, we can be sure of finding peace. We can be sure of it. Now the accepted wisdom is that there is no sure thing in this world. But this word is not of this world. This is a means of Grace. This is a way in which God Himself brings His grace to us and bestows it upon us. We just confessed this in the third article of the creed: “*I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith...*”

You can be sure of finding forgiveness. You can be sure of the loving fellowship of God Himself. You can be sure of being kept in the true faith. You can be sure of finding the peace that transcends all the conflict and disorder of this life.

Listen to Him speak. Listen to Him promise, “***Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out.***” (John 6:37, CSB)

Listen. Christ prays for you. Christ speaks to you. He loves you and bids you love Him, and find peace now and forevermore.

AMEN.