

The Sixth Sunday of Easter 2020  
John 14

Holy Spirit, Light Divine/Shine upon this heart of mine  
Chase the shades of night away/Turn my darkness into day.  
Let me see my Savior's face/Let me all His beauties trace.  
Show that Gospel truth to me/Which is only known to Thee.  
Amen.

**John 14:15–21** *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”*

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

In the Name of Jesus.

SCARED, a bit, about that ‘IF,’ my lovelies! ‘IF y’all love me, y’all will keep MY commandments.’

Happily, the Helper the Father has sent is the Comforter Jesus prayed for. The Holy One, that our Lord calls, ‘The Spirit of Truth.’

Lutheranism 101, basic level, kindergarten: rejoice in the Scriptures on the basis of MORE Scriptures!

Who is this Spirit of Truth? The One JESUS is praying for—  
RIGHT NOW!—for....

Who could use the gift of hearing? The deaf. Who rejoices in new sight? The blind. Who lacks life? The dead. Who is DESPERATE FOR the Truth?

The LAW came through Moses; Grace-filled TRUTH came through Jesus Christ!

My dear ones, there is a TRUTH—per se—of the LAW. Daily and much you and I prove it! As we point and laser-eye and nod in judgment over the next poor man, or our poor selves! And—let's give ourselves the benefit of the doubt! 'It happened! I saw! I suffered! He did it! I did it! That's the FACTS! That's the....TRUTH! The truth(?)'

The Holy Evangelist, Saint John, moves as far as heaven is from earth, as far as East is from the West: Moses from Christ; Law from the TRUTH about God's insides, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, now, and world without end. Amen!

Moses NAILS...DOWN: the TRUTH about US!

The Spirit of Jesus GIVES US: the Truth about God, Whose Name is 'Grace.'

The Comforter, the Paraclete, the Counselor, our Advocate: He is.....GIFT! 'I will ask the Father and He...WILL...GIVE...YOU...'

Heaven is for-certain giving Grace and Truth again—easy-peasy trick for y'all. When you're flooded with gifts unbounded from below and above and all around: It is finished! Peace be with you! My Father—Y'all's Father! My God—Y'all's God!

And then....Heaven CANNOT shut OFF the gift-firehose! ‘The Father has given His One and Only, the ONLY ONE Who IS His image and love and Son—but HE...AIN’T....DONE!’

Saint John gives us this:

**After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now fulfilled and finished and accomplished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished! The work My Father has given Me to do, it has now been accomplished!” And he bowed His head and He gave up His Spirit!**

He gave Him UP all right! His SPIRIT!

**On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with y’all! As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ And when He had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If y’all forgive the sins of any they are forgiven them; if y’all retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

Spirit...again! And, “IF!”

Beloved, that “IF” is the word of resurrection! The IF of....your BAPTISM into Christ!

IF y’all are baptized, the New has come and the Old is just about faded away—East from West, Hell from Heaven!

“But we ARE baptized, pastor!”

OK, then! Instead of IF—let’s go, ‘SINCE’ y’all are baptized, y’all are new; and the TRUTH about GOD—NOT YOU! HIM!—

The Truth about God is that HE is only happy when One Man covers for every man, when what ONE Man finished counts as finished for every man.

GOD is SO tickled with the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world—that HE is only happy when SOMEONE in this world has sins for the Lamb to take away.

HIS commands, my dear ones, are...NOT...COMMANDS! Not... MOSES- commandments, and rules, and ordinances...

UGH! How do I lay this out without hurting your faith?

MOSES DEMANDS—FROM YOU: A ‘PURPOSE’ driven LIFE! WHAT...ARE...YOUUUUU...DOING! And—not enough! WHYYYY are you doing it?!

Christ just makes you alive! He liked it so much when He rose He wants just everyone in on it!

MOSES asks—DEMANDS TO KNOW: Tell the Truth, the Whole Truth, NOTHING but the Truth...so....help...you...Gawwwd!

Christ says: My Father is your Father, and you can take that to the bank! IF God is happy to be MY GOD...

I'm begging y'all to HEAR!

"NOW, Spirit! Now."

GOD...is...only...happy...with...Jesus...

BECAUSE...HE...IS...HAPPY...WITH...YOU!

Being so long from y'all's presence, I—I, the Grinch Himself!—

Your poor pastor was sorely tempted to get up on his hind legs this morning....

I learned again over our hiatus new joys of daily devotions. Hit and miss; hot and cold. But it was a real temptation....Not just that, but many other things; Moses-things:

Obedience to governors;

Gums flapping and tearing down;

Minds turning dirty and thinking ill of....

What good pieces of Bible-guidance can I give you, to help you, to shore things up a bit. As if you come here for the same thing everyone else goes to their Sunday meetin's!

My dear ones: until the end, Moses is GOOD....so that the NEXT poor man catches A BREAK FROM THE EVIL WEEEEEEEEEE handle as EXPERTS! (Oh, I'm not MURDERING

anyone! I'm just telling you about so-and-so; and if enough people get going on that, he'll WISH he was DEAD!)

Moses has a truth. And it's a truth about US'N!

To APPEAR to be God-pleasing: cast every idol from its throne! Our LIFE does NOT consist on how WEEEE...MANAGE....this place; this graveyard; this world! Your LIFE...is just BEGUN...here!

So that the next man has a HOPE of not running us over with his car....Do him as you want to be done; love yourself—then copy and repeat on the next man, and the next. Hit and miss, hot and cold.

But...IF you keep Christ's commands—NOT MOSESESESES' COMMANDS....

IF you keep His commands:

In other words, IF God FAVORS YOU....OVER....HIS....SON-  
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AND...HE....DOES....

Then, the Son rose for one thing: to get back to WORK—for us!

“Dear Father! In the flesh, either I can only be in one place at a time among them; or, as God Himself, I CAN appear in lots of places at lots of times. But that's just gonna mess with your dear children. So, do what you promised! SOOOOOO give to poor, miserable sinners....SOOO give THEM the Spirit happy in MEEEE...

That you and I, dear Father, pour out...to the world...through the most unlikely of all!”

I’ve been realizing, and beginning to tell y’all, after almost three decades in this pulpit: y’all have won heaven’s lottery! The day I was called here!

For IF MY Absolution—I, in Christ’s place, at His Word; I, this man right here, I pardon you! And heaven has NOW, in my word, had its final say over you!—

IF...IF....IF...

(See where this is going? I am baptized. Happy Day!)

If God gives—not just His gifts! But HIMSELF!---  
THROUGH....THIS MANNNNNN....

That’s the Spirit!

That’s the Truth!

THAT is Gifts unbounded: Grace!

And Christ really DID accomplish every work the Father gave Him to do.

How bold can we become? Surprise! Surprise!

The man who's got the weakest handle on the One True God, the Blessed Holy Trinity—

Following the guiding of God other ministers, our betters, our lords and masters...

Keeping the right distance and disinfecting---

LUTHERANS...DISINFECTING! There's your paradox for the day! The oxymoron. 'Hey! Lutherans! This THING makes you HARMLESS!'

IF we love Jesus; IF THIS MAN...HANDS...TO...YOU....

To eat and to drink, His Body and His Blood, for the forgiveness of your sins....

Well, then, Heaven has had its final word. If I GIVE YOU God, pardon, Life, ALL GOOD WORKS....

Then He is YOURS, for certain.

'Trust in the One God has sent.'

The other side of that mandate: 'As I have loved; that's for you too!'

I thank God that y'all are confessing the one thing needful: the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. That's the IF Jesus was calling out of us! Giving to us. Show the world there are sinners still; and He is still forgiving them!



It is heaven not to be so alone in the Name of Jesus.