



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Easter V **May 3, 2026**

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day

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

The Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, 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. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and 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. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour.

You may agree with me on this or you may not but: growing up is difficult. Many of us don't realize this when we are adolescents but ask any parent who has gone through this stage in life with their children and most will agree.

Research has provided us with insights into this time of our lives. We have learned about chemical changes and brain development which has helped parents to understand why teenagers do the things they do.

Psychologically, the adolescent is changing as well. For the first time in their lives, friends and peer groups are starting to have greater influence in the adolescents' life than their parents or guardians.

This is a period of "Storms and Stress". Conflict between adolescents and their parents are often about the extent to which we as parents try, to control or supervise the topics of chores, schoolwork, curfew and privacy. This stretching, pulling and pushing are all part and parcel of the young person searching for their identity; searching for their voice. And through it all, let's not overlook the unforgettable, mood swings. Oh yes, as parents we remember the mood swings.

My memories of growing up is quite simple.....they were fun! They were great! I don't think I was a problem to my parents. Well.....I do remember one time. I was at the intelligent age of thirteen and I wanted to buy a record; an LP of the Monkees. You may recall them....."Hey! Hey! We're the Monkees!" So, decision made; off I went to the Dutch Boy grocery store and purchased the record. Brought it home and went downstairs and played the record. Well, I did it. I felt good about what I did. Until two days later. I forgot we had a detective in the house: mother. Upon emptying my waste paper basket, she found the evidence: the discarded Dutch Boy bag with a bill in it. It read something to the effect: one record for \$4.99 plus tax. I was summoned before the Supreme Court of Patricia Avenue and Judge Mother. The outcome: I didn't buy anything unless I told her. Mother would be pleased to know today that after nearly sixty years, I still have the record, which is in very good condition and has a market value of \$25.64 on eBay!

Yes, we all have stories of growing up: the times of stretching, pulling and pushing. And that is what growing up is all about; testing and experiencing life from the knowledge that was given to us by a parent, guardian or loved one. Also knowing support is not too far away.

In some ways the disciples are on the verge of becoming adolescents themselves. They have travelled with Jesus for the past three years and heard his message, vision and mission. And yet, there is still much confusion in their minds. In this section of John's Farewell Discourse, Jesus offers his disciples fairly lengthy instructions. Jesus announces his imminent departure, gives them directions for the future, and promises to be with them again. As in other parts of this Gospel, Jesus speaks here metaphorically and spiritually while the disciples and his listeners, like us, interpret everything literally. So, Thomas, Philip, and the other disciples just don't seem to get Jesus' message as they struggle to comprehend him. They need to ask questions. They need to ask the questions again.

Philip's misunderstanding comes to the forefront. Philip asks Jesus again to show the disciples the Father. He does not comprehend how he could possibly have seen or known the Father up to this point in his life. Philip doesn't realize Jesus' relationship with God the Father. The relationship is so intimate that Jesus can say: *"anyone who has seen me has seen the Father"*

and *"I am in the Father, and ... the Father is in me."* To Philip's literal way of thinking, Jesus' claim that God can be seen through him is outrageous.

Thomas adds his complaint. After listening to Jesus' mysterious travel plans and beautiful rooms and resting places. Thomas cuts to the chase: "We have no idea what you're talking about so how can we plan for this trip?" And Jesus responds by, "I am it." The disciples have been looking aimlessly for a path, a truth, and a life and there before them, staring them in the face and they cannot see it is, THE path, truth and life. Notice, Thomas never responds. He misses the point.

Philip's and Thomas' troubles begin in the previous chapter as Jesus prepares the disciples for his departure. Jesus foretold the betrayal of Judas and the betrayal by the loyal Peter. Jesus tells them to love one another as I have loved you. Who can be trusted of the faithful twelve? They are upset, confused and have every right to be. Jesus gives them his reassurance: "Don't worry. Trust God and trust me. Just trust! There will be a room in heaven for you." This reassurance is not to be taken in the literal sense as rooms as we know them but as a continued relationship between God and us. Death does not separate and destroy the relationship God has with us. Jesus is telling the disciples, and us, his relationship is about to change but it will continue beyond death; it is not ending.

Jesus reassures the disciples again, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." Jesus will answer our prayers.

The disciples are about to leave the relative safety of childhood. They are soon to be adolescents. It will be a time for them to push, pull, stretch and trust deeply in their faith in God.

My friends in Christ. God wants to spend time with us. May our hearts be open to grow our intimacy, our relationship with God. And like Philip and Thomas, there is room in this relationship for honest acknowledgement of our confusion and our frustration when our requests, prayers seem to go unheard. What grieving spouse has not known this? What mother has not felt this way in trying to leave an abusive relationship? Who has not had to deal with some official procedure and not come away with one of these feelings? Many of us have faced these very situations. And in our relationship, we pray to God and they seem to go unanswered. Yet Jesus promised, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." Jesus also said, "Believe in God, believe also in me." We are called to continue to trust in Jesus as we make our requests no matter how many times we pray our prayer. The message for us may well be to look again at the faces before us. For the face of God is there. God's face is always there. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC COMMUNIQUE

Shepherd's Pie Luncheon is being hosted by the Witness Committee, Saturday, May 9th beginning at noon. Come out and enjoy delicious homemade Shepherd's Pie, salad, dessert and beverage of your choice for only \$10 per person. Tickets will be available Sunday, April 19, 26 and May 3rd in Jubilee Hall following the service. Only 60 tickets are available.

Camp Lutherlyn Camper Sponsorships – St. Timothy's is sponsoring up to 5 children/youth for 1 Week each at Camp Lutherlyn this summer. You can obtain an Application Form from the church office and you can register your child online at lutherlyncamp.ca and then going to the Registration Page.



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