

The 5th Easter Sunday – Year A – 5/3/2026 – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen
Mass of Confirmation and First Eucharist at All Saints

First Reading – Acts 6:1-7: To address Greek-speaking widows' needs, the apostles delegated food distribution to seven Spirit-filled men. This allowed apostles more time for prayer and teaching, leading to the spread of faith and conversions, even among Jewish priests.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 33: Righteous ones, rejoice and praise the Lord with music. His word is true, His works dependable, loving justice and fairness. He watches over and sustains those who trust in Him.

Second Reading – 1 Peter 2:4-9: We are urged to draw near to Christ, the living cornerstone, and become living stones ourselves, forming a spiritual house and priesthood. While precious to believers, Christ is a stumbling block to unbelievers. We are chosen to proclaim God's excellence, brought from darkness to light.

Gospel – John 14:1-12: Jesus comforted his disciples, urging trust in him as in God. Jesus spoke of preparing a place for them in heaven, promising to return for them. Thomas' query about the way was met with Jesus' declaration of being the way, truth, and life, the sole path to the Father. Philip's request to see the Father led Jesus to emphasize his unity with the Father, urging belief in this divine relationship and promising greater works for believers.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus is the Way. We go to God the Father who is Truth and Life through Jesus, and Jesus calls Himself the "Way" because He, the Only begotten Son of God, is also Son of Man, the visible manifestation in human form of all that his Father is.

To those who teach that all religions lead us to God or that religion used is immaterial provided man lead a good life, Jesus has the answer that he is the safest and surest Way to God because he came from God and he can lead us to his Heavenly Father.

The founders of other religions had either different ideas about the way to God or they were not sure guides:

- Lao-Tse (604-531 BC), the founder of Taoism said: *"Get rid of all desires, you will have a contented life on earth, but I am not sure about the next life."*
- Buddha taught people to reach self-realization through total detachment and "nirvana," but he was not sure if these would lead one to God.
- Confucius confessed that he did not know of an eternal life or the way to attain it.
- The founder of Islam, Mohammed Nabi, admitted that he had no hope of the future unless Allah should put His mantle of mercy on him.
- Jesus claims that he is the only Way to God. When a Person is a Way for us to get to the Father and everlasting life, that Way is found only in our relationship with Him, that is, in our union with Him in mind and heart, in will and action.

But Jesus' sure Way to God is the narrow Way of the cross. It is the least-traveled Way of humble, loving, self-giving, and committed service to others. To follow the Way of Jesus is to become a special kind of person, a

person whose whole being reflects the Truth and the Life that Jesus is, and reveals to us. It is to be a person of Truth and Life who is totally identified with the vision and the values of Jesus. The medieval monk Thomas à Kempis, the author of *Imitation of Christ*, explains Jesus' statement, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" thus: "Without the way, there is no going; without the truth, there is no knowing; and without the life, there is no living."

Jesus is the Truth. Gandhi said, "God is truth." Jesus is the Truth because he is the only one who reveals to us the whole Truth about God. He teaches us that God is a loving, merciful, providing, and forgiving Father. He also teaches us the Truth that our Triune God lives in each one of the believers. Jesus is the Truth also because he has borne testimony to Truth, demonstrating through his Life and death that the Love God is, and has, for human beings.

Truth, here, is that complete integrity and harmony which Jesus himself revealed, not only in what he said and did, but in the total manifestation of his life and person. Jesus is the Truth, the Word of God. To seek the truth elsewhere is to stumble and fall, to deal in falsehood and lies. So, we pray in the 86th Psalm, "*Teach me thy Way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy Truth.*" For us, to live the Truth in that Way is also to be fully alive, to be a "fully-functioning person," responding totally to that abundance of life which Jesus has come to give us.

Jesus is the Life. As God, Jesus is Life because he has Eternal Life in himself. In addition, he is the one who gives us his Life-giving Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Life also in the sense that he allows us to share in God's Life through the Sacraments. Christ rose from the dead for two reasons:

- First, to give us eternal life;
- Second, to make us fully alive now!

His Spirit animates every moment of our lives. To be fully alive is to be in God. Thomas a Kempis of *The Imitation of Christ* fame wrote, "*Without the Way, there is no going. Without the Truth, there is no knowing. Without the Life, there is no living.*"

In summary, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. This is the apostolic faith of the Church; therefore, there is no other path—no "back door"—that can bypass Christ, the sole Mediator. Every spirituality directed toward the Virgin Mary and the saints ultimately converges upon Christ. Every good deed performed by Christians is not the result of their own inherent righteousness, but rather stems from their faith in Christ.

Only by walking upon the Way of Jesus can we enter the realm of God; for only He who descended from heaven can lead us back to heaven. Today, people often speak of various paths leading to salvation. However, all such paths must ultimately pass through the Way of Jesus. On this Way, we encounter the fullness of the Truth concerning God. Here, we encounter the fullness of Life—namely, the very Life of God. Amen.

Lord Jesus—the Way leading to the Father, the Truth revealing the very face of God, and the Life enabling humanity to exist and attain immortality—grant us the grace to remain ever conscious that You are the sole Mediator. Grant that we may follow You alone to reach the Father, the source of all happiness, rather than chasing after false "gods" that lead us only to destruction. Amen.