

Date: May 3, 2026 (Easter 5)

1. Texts: Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-4.
2. Subject: salvation.
3. Topic:
4. Aim:
5. Proposition: "We have to make Jesus our way, our truth and our life."

MAKING JESUS OUR WAY

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.¹

The evangelical Protestant Churches have an easy time with this quote. They say, "Unless you make a public and life-changing profession of faith in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you're going to hell." Simple and almost surgical in its approach. In one sentence they can condemn millions of our own relatives and friends to damnation. Billions of others who have never heard the gospel in, from and about Jesus are similarly condemned.

We Anglicans—however evangelical we may be—have to work harder at understanding and applying these verses. That's because of that whole Scripture, Tradition and Reason framework that we employ. We don't really have a "black and white" view of anything. Anglicans live in the gray margins of scriptural interpretation and application.

In light of this, Jesus is the way to God the Creator. Jesus is the truth of, from and about God, but inside time, space and human experience. Jesus is the life of God, again inside time, space and human experience but also beyond them throughout eternity. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, both in the here and now and in the hereafter.

This means that Jesus exists independently of our faith and belief. Even if no one believed in him, he would still be the way, the truth and the life. Our belief does not make him the way, the truth and the life. He is already that and has always been that from before the beginning of the universe.

¹ John 14:6.

Therefore, Jesus is the way to the Father. He is the truth of, from and about the Father. He is the life of the Father who entered time, space and human experience.

Thus, if anyone is to be saved, it will be because the Christ is the way, the truth and the life. His life, death and resurrection illustrate the path to the Father. His life, death and resurrection demonstrate the truth of his identity. His life, death and resurrection prove the reality of the Father. If anyone—Buddhist, Muslim, Jew, Christian or whatever—is to be saved, it will be because Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

The real question becomes, “How do we take advantage of Jesus’ existence?” There might well be many ways of doing that. It’s up to God to decide. But the most secure and certain way is through a life-changing relationship with God as he was revealed in the Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We enter into that love relationship with God by believing in Jesus and by believing that he is the way, the truth and the life. Believing is the choice to be in love with God through Jesus. Believing is the decision to put God’s will and plan ahead of your own. By believing we enter into a relationship with God that changes how we think, speak and act.

So, it is clear that we don’t believe *that* God exists, as if he were a vague and undefinable notion. To believe in God is to be in love with God. To be in love with God is to live God’s life on earth. By believing we choose Jesus as our way, our truth and our life.

This is the most secure and certain path to life in the presence of God. There may be others. In fact, it would be unkind and unloving if God didn’t design other ways of accessing Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. But I would rather go with the certain one.

I suspect that any other pathways would have to somehow reflect the life of Christ. His ways, his truths and his life would have to still be communicated in the lives of people. It might help others, if we were to outline for them the basic outline of Jesus' way, truth and life.

It surely starts with this: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."² Obviously, this understanding of love is not merely sentimental or even emotional. Every time Jesus spoke about love, it is of a sacrificial quality. After all, how did Jesus illustrate his love? Through his crucifixion, that's how. If anyone, Christian or not, is to experience salvation, then self-sacrificing love will have to be a central part of life on earth.

Such love will have to be expressed in word and deed.

Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'³

The way, the truth and the life will be experienced in many ways.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.⁴

² John 13:34.

³ Matthew 25:34-36.

⁴ Matthew 5:3-10.

If anyone, Christian or not, is to experience the way, the truth and the life of Christ in eternity, it will be through living the life of Christ in the here and now. This is most effectively achieved through the life-changing relationship of love, trust, self-sacrifice and submission with God as he is revealed in Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. This relationship is created by believing in the Christ. The proof of the relationship is living out Jesus' way, truth and life in word and deed, being guided by Christ's example and words.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁵

This is a universal and eternal truth delivered to us through Scripture. We interpret it using the best that tradition and reason can give us. We make it our way, our truth and our life through the transformative relationship of faith in Christ. May others so experience this truth through our words and actions so that they may make it their own.

AMEN.

⁵ John 14:6.