

Resurrected Life in Believers

Promise: joined to Christ in Baptism we share in His Resurrected Life

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Ac 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60; Ps 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

(Fifth Sunday of Easter, 5/7/23)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. — Jn 14:12

Lead In – Because Jesus died and rose again, baptized believers not only share in the forgiveness of their sins, but we also share in the resurrected life of Christ to whom we are joined in baptism. “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” This morning I want to share something from each of our three lessons on what that newness of life looks like...

I. Face Persecution with Boldness & Forgiveness

- A. The hazards of preaching repentance and forgive...
- B. Physical death not the worst thing that can happen...
- C. μαρτυς (*mar'-toos*) simply means “a witness”...

II. A Spiritual House Made Up of Living Stones

- A. We are being built up as a spiritual house...
- B. Believers gathered around Word and Sacrament...
- C. One High Priest, many witnesses proclaiming...

III. Knowing Our Destination And Mission (Purpose)

- A. Our destination is the Father’s house...
- B. It is His Mission that we continue in...
- C. Now His redeeming work spread and multiplied...

Parting Shot – The devil, the world, and our sinful nature never quit lying and deceiving us. They would have you believe that Christianity is a great bore, that robs us of all happiness, and that inhibits a full expression of ourselves. Actually, life in Christ is the greatest adventure, and the most meaningful and rewarding life possible. Jesus said that He came that we might have life and have it abundantly. But you have to know this! The most rewarding path is not the easiest path! Stephen knew this even as the stones came flying his way. It was just one more opportunity to share the love and forgiveness of Christ with others. And we have a share in this love, forgiveness, and Divine Life as well...

Ac 7:51 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

Ac 7:54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

Ac 7:60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

2Ti 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1Pe 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual

John 14:1-14 ESV

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Jn 20:21-22 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Jn 10:10b I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.