

Living Water Fellowship

Worship with Holy Communion

5th Sunday of Easter – 2nd May 2021

COME TO JESUS

Gathering Song: Come Praise and Glorify

Video - Welcome & Prayer:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

Bible Reading: John 18:33b-38a

FAITH CHAT:

Song: Even So Come

Bible Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Message: *LIFE PULSE: LIFE BEYOND...POLITICS*

The Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers:

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship video during Communion: Breakthrough (Red Rocks Worship)

GO IN HIS POWER

The Blessings:

**(Name), † child of God,
you are a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven!
Amen.**

Announcements:

Song: Build Your Kingdom Here

SHOW HIS LOVE

JOHN 18:33B-38A

"Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked Jesus. ³⁴ Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

³⁷ Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true." ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

MATTHEW 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. ¹⁶ They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. "Teacher," they said, "We know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial & don't play favourites. ¹⁷ Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin, ²⁰ he asked, "Whose picture & title are stamped on it?"

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, & give to God what belongs to God." ²² His reply amazed them, & they went away.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read John 18:33b-38a & Matthew 22:15-22. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself?
2. How serious was Pilate's question to Jesus: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Why did Pilate ask that & not something else? What does Jesus' answer reflect?
3. What does Pilate mean by, "Am I a Jew? Your own people & their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?" What would you say Pilate has already decided about Jesus?
4. How might Pilate have understood "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."
5. Why does Jesus shift from talking about his non-earthly kingdom to his witness to truth & his reign that is true? Why does Pilate now leave his chambers & declare to the mob & Jewish leadership, "He is not guilty of any crime." & try to arrange Jesus' release?
6. What would you say to a person who accuses you of being narrow-minded or bigoted because you believe in absolute truth? Sometimes the slogan, "All truth is God's truth," is used to smuggle worldly "truth" into people's lives. Is the slogan valid? What guards, guidelines or measures need to be applied to it to test its validity?
7. In what settings might you need to stand up for the truth this week regardless of the consequences?
8. After all the flattery, what question did the Pharisees' disciples & the Herodians finally ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond to all the false adulation? Why was his reaction so strong?
9. How did Jesus answer the question without getting Himself in political hot water? How did Jesus' opponents respond to Jesus' words? Why was his answer the only correct one?
10. What does Jesus mean by his answer? What are the implications about our relationship to either God or the state?
11. In your life, how do you separate God's things from 'Caesar's' things? What's on either side of the line? Why are you satisfied with your answer? Might it need to change?