

Living Water Fellowship

18th Sunday in Pentecost

22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONGS: Lord Be The Rising (AT 676)
New Life (AT 522)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

BIBLE READING: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.


¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

CHILDREN’S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Acts 1:1-8

¹ In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach

² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with  water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

THE MESSAGE: *MAKING JESUS' LAST WORDS OUR FIRST PRIORITY*

SPECIAL GUEST: Rev. Brendan Handel – Olive Tree Media

OFFERING SONG: You are My All in All

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

The 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 during Communion: VIDEO – CRY FOR HUMILITY

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, child of God,
May Jesus' last words be your first priority.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Free to Dance (PW 874/AT 481)

SHOW HIS LOVE

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REMEMBER:

The church, each of us & every believer in the world
is how God plans to reach all nations with the good news of Jesus.
We are "The Plan."

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus' Name...Amen.***

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 28:16-20 & Acts 1:1-8. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be the most important in these readings? Why?
2. These are familiar verses to most followers of Jesus. Does their familiarity hinder you hearing them as being specifically addressed to you at this moment in your life?
3. Read Acts 1:6. What does this suggest the disciples think will happen now that Jesus is risen? How does their image of Christ's Kingdom differ from Jesus'? How do his commands here not only correct them, but point the way for us as well?
4. Read Daniel 7:13-14. Why is this vision of Christ's universal authority so compelling? How might it impact your faithfulness in inviting others into life in Christ? How does Christ's promise to be with you always steady your boldness?
5. Considering all you know about Jesus' promises to those who are drawn to him by the Spirit, what is the chief role of those who are followers of Christ? How will that be made possible? Who is responsible for that?
6. Jesus promised his followers they would be his "witnesses" all over the world. How was the Spirit a gift that would help them live out that promise? How can the Spirit help you share Jesus' love with boldness & urgency?
7. Make a list of what you think are the top 5 reasons Christians, generally speaking, don't share their faith in Jesus very much if at all. Think about the weakening & decline of the Christian church in the Western world. What in the world has influenced that decline? What in the church has aided that same weakening & decline? What can you do differently to make the church a more effective disciple-making body?
8. Read Acts 1:9-11. How do you think the followers of Jesus were affected by the promise that he would return? How are you affected by that promise?
9. Do you view the Great Commission as a joy or as a burden? What is the motivation & attitude we could have as Christians when living out this passage? How can you personally grow in seeing it as a joy?
10. What do these texts call you to do? How will you know when you are being obedient to Jesus regarding what you've heard & experienced today?