

**SERMON FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 3RD 2026**  
**“I am The Way, Truth, and Life” based on John 14:1-14**

*Rev. Nehemia N.*

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Or, as the Good News Translation puts it, “Do not be worried and upset.”*

If we are honest, that sounds like a difficult command. Who among us has never been worried? Who here has never carried anxiety, fear, or unrest in their heart? Every one of us knows what it is to lie awake at night, to carry burdens we cannot easily set down, to feel troubled by the uncertainties of life. So, when Jesus speaks these words, they can feel less like comfort and more like an impossible expectation.

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me” (John 14:1)***

Friends in Christ, the story we just heard today unfolds during the Last Supper. In last verses of ch. 13 of the Gospel of John, Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his departure. He tells them that he will be with them only a little longer and that where he is going, they cannot yet follow—a statement that brings confusion and concern. And Peter, in his boldness, insists that he is ready to follow Jesus anywhere, even to the point of death. But Jesus gently reveals a deeper truth—that even before the night is over, Peter will deny him three times.

So here, Jesus is sitting with his disciples and try to prepare them as he knew that cross is just ahead. The disciples at that point not yet fully understand what is coming. And it is precisely there, in that space of confusion and anxiety among the disciples that Jesus speaks: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”*

Not as a dismissal of their fear, but as a word of deep assurance. He is preparing them, holding them, steadying them for what lies ahead.

Last Sunday, here in the church, we read and listened to the story where Jesus says I am the door of the shepherd. And as I said last Sunday, in Gospel of John there are 7 I am statements from Jesus. And the passage before us today is one of those I am statements.

And this matters, because throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus does not simply teach, but he reveals about His identity. Again and again, Jesus uses the powerful phrase “I am” (or in Gr. ἐγώ εἰμι), making bold declarations about his identity and mission. These “I am” statements are not random; they echo something far deeper.

Many interpreters and theologians argue that these statements take us back to that sacred moment in Book of Exodus, when Moses stands before the burning bush and asks God for a name. And God replies, “I AM WHO I AM.” ἐγώ εἰμι.

So, when Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” in passage before us today, he is not only offering guidance—he is revealing that in Him, God has drawn near. The One who spoke to Moses is now speaking to the troubled hearts at the table... and to us, here and now.

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).***

Here, Jesus draws his disciples back to the very center of their faith by simply asked them for a deep, abiding relationship of trust in Him. Even as everything around them begins to unravel, even as the shadow of the cross draws near, his word to them is steady and clear, *believe in Me.*

And if we are honest, this is where the words meet us most deeply. Because there are seasons in our lives when it feels as though Jesus has gone quiet... when the path before us does not match the plans we had so carefully laid... when prayers seem unanswered, and clarity feels far away. In those moments, it is easy to wonder: *Has God left me? Does He abandon me?*

In our life it is very normal that we face doubt. We wrestle with confusion. We question what so called “God’s plan,” especially when it does not look like anything we would have chosen for ourselves. But here, Jesus gently calls us back—not to easy answers, but to a firm foundation. “Believe in me,” he says. Trust that I am still present. Trust that I am still at work. Trust that even you cannot see Me, you are not alone.

And this kind of belief is not partial. It is not something we hold onto only when life is going well. It is a full reliance on Christ—through *every* situation. In joy and in sorrow, in clarity and in confusion, in hope and in fear. Every single one.

Then Jesus continues his teaching:

***“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:1-3***

Remember in the Gospel of John, this is Jesus’ farewell at the table before he was crucified. Everything about the moment that night is heavy. The disciples are confused, unsettled, and afraid. And yet, into that very space, Jesus speaks not only about His departure—but he speaks of His promise.

He tells them that His going is not the end of the story. It is, in fact, part of God’s greater purpose. As he speaks of returning to the Father, he also assures them that this is not a journey he takes alone but a path he is preparing *for them*.

He is going ahead, *not to leave them behind, but to make a way*. A place is being prepared. A home is being made ready.

And this is where the good news begins to take root in our troubled hearts: that our story, too, is held within this promise. That even when we cannot see the way forward, Christ is already there. Even when life feels uncertain, our destination is not in question. Because The One who calls us to trust... is the same One who goes ahead of us, prepares a place for us, and promises: *I will come back and take you to be with me*.

And it is right at this point that the voices of Thomas, and later Philip, enter the story—giving words to what many of the others are quietly thinking. Jesus has been speaking about going to the Father, about a place being prepared, about a way that they will one day follow. But the truth is, they do not fully understand. And most likely because the road

Jesus is speaking is road to the cross, and that is not a path they think would ever happen to The Messiah.

The disciples are not faithless men—they are faithful, but bewildered, confused. They are trying to hold on to Jesus' words while everything feels like it is slipping beyond their grasp. And here, Thomas refuses to pretend. He will not hide behind vague, polite faith language. He will not say he understands when he does not. With honesty, he speaks up:

**“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” (John 14:5).**

There is something deeply human, and faithful I would say, about that question.

If there is one thing we can learn from Thomas, he teaches us that faith is not the absence of questions. Thomas does not turn away in his doubt; he leans in. He brings his confusion directly to the Lord. And it is precisely there—in response to the question of a searching, uncertain disciple—that Jesus gives one of his most profound declarations:

**“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6a)**

Through Thomas' question we can see that it is often in the space of honest questioning that the deepest revelation comes. So it means no one needs to be ashamed of their doubts. Doubt is not always the opposite of faith; indifference is. The one who questions, who seeks, who wrestles—this is the one who is still engaged, still reaching, still longing for truth.

And the promise of the gospel is this: those who seek will, in time, find. Not always in the way they expect, not always with immediate clarity—but they will find, because Christ himself meets us in our searching and leads us into truth.

So the question for us is when we have troubled hearts, filled with confusion, doubts, and anxiety, *where do we place our trust?*

***<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:6-7)***

Jesus say he is the only way for us to truly know God, to be in relationship with God, to be justified by faith, and to live a life that is pleasing to God.

What does it mean? To trust in Him—and in Him alone?

Friends in Christ, trusting in Jesus often means believing in something we cannot yet see. Trusting in Him means relying on the conviction that God will help, that God will provide, and that God will act—in God's perfect timing.

And from my own limited experience of life, as I may not have even half of life experience of many of you here, but I have learned this: that it is not always easy to trust in the midst of problems, struggles, and anxieties that surround us.

And it turns out, this is not just our struggle today. This was also the struggle of the disciples who walked and served with Jesus two thousand years ago. After about three years of ministry together, they still did not fully understand who Jesus was. And now, he was about to leave them as it getting closer to the cross. So His identity had to be made clear—because after His ascension, it would be these very disciples who would carry and proclaim the good news.

And we also need to remember this: in that time, the Jewish understanding of the Messiah was quite different. They were expecting someone who would free them from suffering, from oppression, from the weight of Roman rule. They imagined a powerful figure—someone with status, influence, and authority—someone who could overthrow earthly powers.

So Jesus, born into the family of a carpenter, did not quite fit their expectations. Not for the crowds, and not even for the disciples.

In their minds, the Messiah would rescue them from visible, earthly hardship. But what Jesus came to do was far greater. He did not come merely to relieve temporary suffering—he came to bring eternal salvation. He came to save humanity from the power of sin and from death itself, a power we could never overcome on our own.

And it is here that Jesus makes this profound declaration:

***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)***

In this statement, Jesus reveals his identity as the Messiah in the clearest way. He is not a way among many—he is *the* way. The promise he gives is not temporary comfort or worldly success, but something eternal: life with the Father.

So the question now becomes deeply personal for us: *What matters most to us?*

Is it the one that temporary or the eternal one?

And if we say that the eternal truly matters more, then how do we live that way? How do we fix our hearts not on what is passing, but on what lasts forever?

Friends in Christ, trusting in Jesus is the first step into true life. Listen to these words from the Epistle to people in Colossae, chapter 3:

**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col. 3:1-4)**

Let us linger especially on this truth: *your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

From now on, let heaven begin to shape our thoughts. Do not spend all our energy worrying about things “down here.” Not because those things are not important, but because they are not ultimate. As they do not have the final word over our life.

When we begin—slowly, imperfectly, but sincerely—to align our thoughts, our desires, and our lives with our true model, Jesus Christ, something begins to change within us. We may not notice it all at once, but over time, we become less consumed by anxiety, less controlled by fear, and less attached to what is temporary.

And this is not an invitation to instant transformation, as if we could change with the snap of a finger. It is an invitation into a lifelong journey—to become more like Christ, day by day, step by step before we become one with Our Creator.

Let me end this reflection with a story. A few years ago I was in Bali, one of famous tourist destination in Indonesia. I took my family out there for vacation and we rented a villa nearly in the middle of nowhere. Or in their word when they advertised it, secluded, private, and quiet area.

When we arrived, it was late night, I know that I would need to buy bottled water for the night as not all tap water are good for consumption there. So I tried to walk out from the villa area to find if there is convenience store nearby that still open.

As I stepped outside, I met a security guard from a nearby property. I asked him a simple question: “Where can I buy water?” And I expected directions—“go left,” “turn right,” something like that. But instead, he said, “I’ll take you there,” and offered to drive me on his motorcycle.

At first, I hesitated. I felt it was too much trouble. All I needed was directions. But he insisted—genuinely, kindly. So eventually, I said yes. Cause to be honest with you, it’s a lot better then walking in the dark by myself. So, I got on the motorcycle, and he drove me there... and waited while I went inside... and then brought me back.

And here’s what struck me. He didn’t just *show me the way*—he *became the way* for me. He didn’t stand at a distance and point; he came alongside me, made sure I arrived, and safely brought me back. All out of kindness. All at the cost of his own time and comfort.

Even more, when I offered to buy him something or give him money, he refused. He said, “No, it’s okay. I just wanted to help.”

And as I remember this story and preparing this sermon, I found myself wondering: *Why did I trust him that night?*

He was a stranger. I didn’t know the roads. I didn’t know the place. And yet, I sat behind him on that motorcycle, trusting that he would bring me where I needed to go.

And then the question came to my heart:

*If I can trust a stranger like that... why do I struggle to trust Jesus?*

Friends in Christ, Jesus does not simply give us directions in life. He does not stand far away and say, “Figure it out.” But He says, “*I am the way.*” He comes to us, walks with us, goes before us, and leads us home.

Even when we cannot see the road ahead, we are invited to trust.

To trust that he is leading.

To trust that he knows the way.

To trust that he will bring us safely home.

So may we go from this place with hearts that are less troubled—not because life is easy, but because our trust is deeper.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.