

## NORTH MAIN SERMON MAY 3, 2026

Proverbs 4:10-18

- 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say,  
and the years of your life will be many.
- 11 I instruct you in the way of wisdom  
and lead you along straight paths.
- 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;  
when you run, you will not stumble.
- 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;  
guard it well, for it is your life.
- 14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked  
or walk in the way of evildoers.
- 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it;  
turn from it and go on your way.
- 16 For they cannot rest until they do evil;  
they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble.
- 17 They eat the bread of wickedness  
and drink the wine of violence.
- 18 The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,  
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

GOSPEL JOHN 14: 1-14

Jesus comforts his disciples, telling them not to be troubled but to trust in him, as he goes to prepare a place for them in his Father's house.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>[a]</sup>; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> 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? <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"<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<sup>[b]</sup> my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD..

Jesus has just had the Passover meal with his disciples. He has washed their feet in an act of servanthood. He has foretold his betrayal which Judas will soon perform. He has predicted Peter’s denial. He has told them he is leaving. But he adds this word of hope: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many rooms. I go to prepare a place for you and will come again and take you to myself. So that where I am, you may be also.

Hardship has a way of getting our attention. Pain slows us down. Very few of us, after facing a trial, come out the same way we entered in. Jesus understood this and attempted to prepare his disciples for the road ahead. He wanted them to know...

1. If you have faith in me you will overcome your worry.
2. If you have faith in me you will have direction in life.
3. If you have faith in me you will have help along the way.

God saw through the prophets, the irresponsible shepherds, those in dire circumstances, those asking for forgiveness. Through the person of Jesus, God did likewise. Jesus’ connection to the Father is of paramount importance in the Gospel reading. Convincing His disciples of this connection is one of our Savior’s goals in John 14:1-14. The other is that although He is leaving, He will return. And what is more, He will not leave them alone. No wonder the disciples are troubled. Their beloved

teacher is leaving them. In the chapters leading up to the Gospel reading, Jesus has entered Jerusalem, predicted His death, washed the feet of the disciples, predicted the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter, and given the disciples His command to love one another. Now He speaks words of comfort. Jesus responds to the anxiety of his disciples by saying, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.

In verse 2, Jesus explains that there are many rooms in His Father’s house. This can be translated to “dwelling places.” “Dwelling places” has a more meaning to us than houses. It conveys a sense of permanence. When Jesus returns to take the disciples, they will dwell with the Father and the Son eternally. While the Son will be visibly absent for only a little while until His return, their place in paradise will have no end.

In verse 6, Jesus states that no one comes to the Father except through Him, which can also be translated “by reason of.” Jesus wants to convince His disciples that not only is it through Him that they will reach the Father, but that to have the Son is to have the Father also. After promising that the disciples not only have a place in heaven but that He will come again to take them there, Jesus asserts in verse 4, “You know the way to where I am going. Thomas, like most characters in the Gospel, takes Jesus quite literally. He wants directions, a road map to this place (14:5). Jesus responds by saying that he himself is the way: Christ wants the disciples, and us, to understand that He is not merely a way to the Father but the way. This statement by Jesus is a promise, a word of comfort to his disciples. Jesus himself is all they need; there is no need to panic, no need to search desperately for a secret map. This is the whole of Jesus’ mission, to make known the Father, to reveal who God is. Jesus communicates that He is going away, but He will also return. Jesus promises to be with us through the power of the Spirit, to work in and through us to accomplish his purposes in the world.

Jesus charges in verse 1, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.”

If you have a troubled heart, ask God to give you a new perspective. Also ask him to give you patience so that you do not jump ahead and worry about a problem that may never come. But most important of all, ask God for more faith. Faith in God is the best remedy for all our problems.

Jesus put it plainly, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."

Today we celebrate a gift that Jesus gave us in the form of communion. Please turn to your bulletin insert at this time.

### **Holy communion - May 3, 2026**

Today as we share Communion with each other, may we who eat this bread, become a people of living stones; may we who drink this juice become a people of salvation. We ask that you enrich our faith and trust as we gather together again at your table for this sacred remembrance. In these moments of communion together, may we experience the confidence of children who know they are loved and accepted completely. "Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another". This open invitation represents a central aspect of our theology, emphasizing grace, repentance, and communion with God. We are invited to come not as a table for the perfect, but a table of grace for those seeking to grow in holiness. Therefore, let us join in ...

### **CONFESSION AND PARDON (In Unison)**

**Merciful God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. We do not presume to come to this your table, trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have broken your law, we have not loved our neighbors. We have not done your will. We are not worthy that you should receive us. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**LEADER: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**PEOPLE: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**ALL: GLORY TO GOD.**

**The Table of our Lord is set.. the Sacraments have been blessed..all are welcome here to this table.. lift up your hearts and give thanks to the Lord. Come forward when you are ready.**

**PRAYER: (In Unison) God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things, we give you thanks for the world you have created, for the gift of life, and for giving yourself to us in Jesus Christ, whose holy life, suffering and death, and glorious resurrection have delivered us from the captivity of slavery and sin. May we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints through Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank you that in the power of your Holy Spirit you have fed us in this Sacrament, made us one with each other and united us with Christ. We are your children, and yours is the glory, now and forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**