

Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, June 14, 2026

Christ Is THE Way

Over the years, we have heard endless and varied blasphemous and patently illogical assaults on God, that violently twist the scriptures. It is a vocation of the wicked flesh to create “clever” arguments against the clear word of God, in order to intoxicate and distract the screaming, blood-guilty conscience. It is an additional enterprise to spread these delusions like a deadly virus, such that the whole world lies deceived in the lap of the wicked one, spouting the exact same mantras. The reprobate masses with all of their self-important diversity don’t see the ironic truth of their cult-like assimilation to Satan’s hateful and murderous schtick; they present like a grotesque, demonic, and yet well rehearsed and synchronized chorus line. I think each of us could immediately cite dozens of these carefully crafted and marketed false doctrines, that begin with the desired flesh-pleasing conclusion, and then build a Frankenstein’s monster of twisted, isolated snippets of scripture to support their world view. These blasphemies have been shouted at us with violent insistence for our entire lives. There is nothing new under the sun, and yet, every once in a while I come upon one that still manages to surprise me because of the sheer audacity. In the last several weeks I’ve encountered at least a dozen videos on X with a singular message. I didn’t look for any of this stuff – the algorithm just waterboarded me with them. One false prophet after another, of various denominations, all trying desperately to dismantle **John 14:6**, a blessedly simple, and hopeful verse for those that have been called to believe upon Jesus for salvation. Here it is in context:

John 14:1-11 “1 ¶ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 ¶ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.”

I transcribed a few samples of what these wolves are preaching about this verse, and am going to take a few minutes to read you their words. It's shocking to me that these people stand in the pulpit and preach these blatant lies, but it's more shocking that there are people in the pews to hear them, and dollars in the box to enable them!

Rev. Pauline Farrington - Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, North Bethesda MD - *"This has been interpreted as exclusive access to salvation; an exclusive invitation to God's mansion in heaven, like it's available ONLY to Christians. The church has been teaching exclusive guardrails for generations. But nothing could be farther from what Jesus is doing here."*

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale - Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, NM - *"If you find the John 14 text familiar, but you're not 'super churchy', you've probably heard it at a funeral. Another thing we sometimes do with Jesus' words is to advance an exclusive understanding of God – some are in, some are out. Have you ever heard this talked about that way? That some people have it wrong? But if we think about the relational promise that all of this is about, is that truly how we want to understand these words? I wonder if what Jesus is doing here is not exclusive, but it is particular, and yet still abundant. He is revealing a particular expression of the divine that is fully present and dwelling with us. God with us through the ups and downs of life, and with us as we pass from life into death. These are still words of promise that don't drive people out, but rather invites everyone into an intimate relationship with God that will last into eternity. So, when Jesus says 'I am the way and the truth and the life', these are not words of exclusion or exceptionalism, but words of promise grounded in love and relationship."*

Glenn Seefeldt - Pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis MN -

"Paul does not put down or judge world religions. He doesn't put down or bash them. He suggests that the creator placed in all human kind this need to know God – this longing for God. He suggests that world religions are manifestations of this longing that we all have. He suggests that many, if not all world religions can be a path to God. Now in our reading for today, in the book of Acts, Paul confronts the idea that non-Christian religions are bad – something, to be honest, that many of us were taught. I no longer believe that Jesus is the only way to know God. As I have come to know Jesus through the heart of the community I get to know the heart of God, I get to know the will of God. Jesus is important for me, and for many of you ... but can we say that Jesus is the only way?"

Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne - UCC minister in Canada - *"People use John 14 as proof that people who do not claim Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, or who follow other religions, have no place in the life to come. But is that what Jesus really meant when he said that? That he's some kind of cosmic gatekeeper verifying your ID as a believer before*

you can get into the heavenly club? I mean, surely not ... right? I don't know about you, but if I make it to whatever the heavenly banquet looks like, and the Dhali Llama, and Ghandi aren't there – then I'm going to be disappointed."

Rev. Mike Angell - Priest at St. Michael's & All Angels Episcopalian Church, Albuquerque, NM - *"Today we hear Jesus' famous line: I am the way and the truth and the life – this is a verse that we often read at funerals. If you hear it at a funeral here at St. Michael's, you will notice that I stop it right there – half way through. 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' is enough at a funeral. The next line carries too much cultural, religious baggage: 'no one comes to the Father, except through me'. If you include those words at a funeral, you have opened the proverbial bag of cats; so I very intentionally leave those out of our bulletins. But today, we hear the verse in it's fuller context, and what Jesus says before and after this line should make Christians think twice about what we think he means here. The problem of course is the same problem behind my anxious question to my rabbi friend. Christians for generations have heard these words as an exclusive claim: Jesus in the only way to heaven; Christianity is the right answer in the game show of life. The church took that idea and ran with it. When Christians believe that we have a monopoly on the truth – when we believe we have the keys to the kingdom – we can behave abominably."*

Rev Anna Flowers – Pastor of United Church, Walpole, MA - *"I am THE way, THE truth, THE life – and here's the kicker – NO ONE comes to the Father except through me. Now for centuries, for millenia, Christians have used those words as a proof text to do all kinds of awful things in the world; to punish people for not being Christian, or their version of Christian; to punish or condemn people for all kinds of beautiful diversity that we see in the world; not to bless the world, but to condemn it. All kinds of awful things have come from those little words. Now here's the thing, before we even dive in, we have to get one thing straight – Jesus did not come into this world to preach and to teach a my-way-or-the-highway type of religion. Absolutely not! In every other one of the Gospels, people come to Jesus and ask him point blank: 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' answer is this: follow the 10 commandments, love God, be an ethical person, do the right thing. The questioner follows up and asks 'well who is my neighbor?' Jesus' answer is that the person who is on the way to eternal life – the person who loves God and loves their neighbor – it can even be a Samaritan; someone who is not of our religion, who is not of our tribe, who is not of our ethnicity, and who worships God in a completely different way – that person can inherit eternal life. So, to make a claim that Jesus is now teaching a radically different message, that you have to follow God in a certain way, you have to say the Jesus prayer, you have to be part of our tribe, or you have to be part of our faith, or you have to claim Jesus as your Lord and Savior or you won't get into the kingdom of heaven, MAKES NO SENSE, when you look at in the light of this consistent character of Jesus. Jump into my hands, Jesus is saying – look into my eyes – I am the way into this pool. We as*

Christians get to jump – we get to leap – not because it is an exclusive experience, but because it is authentic; because it is true – alongside other truths in the world. So this is my heart and my hope for you: when you encounter this scripture, and Christians who think differently about it, that you will be able to explain to them that any time you are talking about the Gospel of John, and especially a conversation that he was having with Thomas, Jesus is not to be taken literally, but metaphysically.”

Rev. Dr. Brennan Blue - Pastor of Saint Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka, MN -
“What about all of my friends and relatives who I love, but are not Christian – which is a lot of them - do they have eternal life? I sure hope so, I love those people! What about my friends of different religions – my dear Jewish and Muslim and Hindu and Buddhist and Mormon and Unitarian and Christian Science friends, who approach God differently than in my Christianity? They often live beautiful, generous, compassionate lives like some Christians do too, but they would not claim a faith centered in Jesus – do they have eternal life? In the end, the life that really is life, will be revealed fully to be true and good and full of ultimate flourishing, like it always is, like it always does. All those we love and care about, our dearly departed, they know this true life, and they have been set free from the confines of their mortal one. In the end, true life is not ours to possess, but ours to discover, which we do in different ways at different times. How strange and unfortunate that this, one of the most expansive and inclusive texts in all of the Bible, over the course of millennia and tradition gets wielded as a way to justify Christian exceptionalism and superiority, when its expressed purpose is to move beyond religion and doctrine and laws and into the realm of the life which we live and the faith that powers it. No one gets to the Father except through me – this way that I am, and this in which I believe; the grace filled life that runs with the current of eternity. Does everyone have eternal life? Well, according to the Gospel, everyone is invited to live the life that really is life, here and now. No one is excluded. Will everyone find it? Sometimes, here and now; but everybody in the end. In my experience, the best way to find the true life that is eternal is to center our lives in Jesus Christ. There are other ways to find that life that really is life.”

What a bunch of meaningless babble, meant to somehow obscure and ignore the plain truth of the scriptures. Rev. Dr. Blue would have us to believe that the beginning and ending of our interest in Christ is simply a generic pattern of a good life lived. That’s “the way, the truth, and the life”? Once again, man is saving himself, no wonder Christ is treated as an optional side piece. What of the wonderful salvation that He wrought with His body and blood? This talk is bloodless! This is fig leaves! This is vegetables on the altar! What hopeless folly!

Christ is the **ONLY** way. Christ is the **ONLY** truth. In Christ **ALONE** is life. Let's cleanse our minds of this ridiculous human speak by hearing directly what the Word of God has to say about the matter. Here are just a few samples:

- **Acts 4:9-12** *"9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*
- **1Timothy 2:1-6** *"1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."*
- **Romans 10:8-11** *"8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."*
- **Ephesians 2:14-22** *"14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."*

What did Jesus directly say about this topic while He walked in the body that was prepared for Him?

- **John 3:35,36** *“35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*
- **John 3:16-18** *“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*
- **John 10:7-18** *“7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”*
- **John 15:1-8** *“1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”*
- **John 6:50-58** *“50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if*

any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

Christ is not merely "the way" by example or by pointing the direction. He is those things, but far more: He is "the way" itself. The only way. By faith in Jesus, we have *"boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh..." (Hebrews 10:19-20)* Similarly, Christ does not merely speak truth, He is truth itself. The only truth. He is truth incarnate. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." (John 1:1-5)* Christ does not merely promise eternal life, He is the Creator and maintainer of all life, and He has secured our hope of eternal life; our souls are bound up in the bundle of life with Him. (**1Samuel 25:29**)

These are not portable concepts. No other "way", no other "god", no other "truth", no other view of eternal life, or how to possess it. This is barbed wire religion – there is no way to straddle it! Jesus: *"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division" (Luke 12:51)* You can't cast aside Jesus, and attain life with your own works, because you were just such a good person. No! You are a sinner that has rebelled against the sovereign Creator – God's Holy justice must be answered. Jesus alone has reconciled us to God, by His own blood. Follow Him; obey Him; emulate Him. Obey Him with reverence as your husband and Lord, not your buddy - not your AA sponsor – not your corporate mentor – not your life coach.

Ephesians 4:1-6 *"1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

For more depth on John 14:6, you can revisit the excellent sermon that Ben preached on 3/21/2021.

Returning now to these false teachers - vicious, deadly vipers – ravenous, devouring wolves. Let us consider and heed the warnings and woe that the scriptures provide regarding these beasts:

- **Jeremiah 23:29-31** *“29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? 30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. 31 Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.”*
- **2Timothy 4:1-5** *“1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”*
- **2Peter 2:1-3** *“1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”*
- **2Peter 3:11-18** *“11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the*

other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

- **Isaiah 30:8-17** *“8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: 9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: 10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: 11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. 12 Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: 13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. 14 And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters’ vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit. 15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. 16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. 17 One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.”*

This was the path and consequence for the rebellious house of Israel; it is now the path and consequence – as promised - for the rebellious Christian Church. If our Father did not spare the natural sons who rebelled against Him and forsook Him, how much less will he spare those that have been adopted into his house? This is the time to hold fast, beloved. Satan’s assaults and deceptions are constant and aggressive. We must seek the Lord to make us unmovable in doctrine - unmovable in reliance upon God, seeking Him, and trusting Him for every circumstance, every affliction, every assault, every accusation of our own hearts, every accusation of the Deceiver and the deceived, every fear, every phase of life, every decaying movement of the flesh, every desire of the heart, every shaking in the world around us as iniquity increases and abounds. There is no compromising; there are no bargains to be made.

Revelation 3:11-13 *“11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I*

will write upon him my new name. 13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

John 14:26,27 “26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

I love you all. Amen.