

I am the way

Notes on the Bible readings

- This week's Gospel passage is perhaps best known for its use at funerals. But Jesus' words offer more than the promise of a place prepared for the future. He also promises that he will remain with the disciples, even when he is physically gone from them.

- In his unique writing style, John illustrates the complex relationship between God present now as trinity and the (not-yet) promise of the kingdom to come. The relationship is close - whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father. This is why Jesus can assure the disciples that they will not be left abandoned, and that he himself is both the way that they need to travel and the means.

- There is a theme within these readings of being joined to God in an unbreakable relationship. 1 Peter speaks about believers being built together like living stones. Jesus assures his disciples that they will be united in and with him. The Gospel passage ends with a command and a promise (v.12): 'the one who believes in me will also to the works that I do'. Through a life lived in 'the way', we are commissioned to follow Jesus' example: feeding the poor, caring for those who are hurting, and sharing God's love.

The way

Make a simple labyrinth, inside or outside, using rope, string or pebbles. (Search the internet for example to copy). Make it as large as space and resources allow. Walk the path you have laid out, imagining that Jesus is walking with you. Ask (pray) that Jesus will show you the way in your daily life. Take as much time as you need, pausing from time to time to think about whatever comes to mind.

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Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you use to help you find the way?
- ▶ How does it feel that Jesus has prepared a way and a place for each of us?
- ▶ When are the most difficult times to recognise Jesus as the way?



A prayer of approach

*Together, Lord, we come to seek the 'Jesus way'.
May we know your truth and your presence in all that we are.
May we receive new life, and be empowered to serve you in all that we do. Amen.*

A prayer for others

*In the world at this time there is so much fear,
many have had their lives and livelihoods destroyed;
many grieve for loved ones who have died;
many are still sick - or fear becoming so:
that they may all know your strength and peace, loving God -
be for them a rock and a stronghold.*

*In a world where industries and infrastructures have failed,
where means of transport and delivery struggle to survive,
where many do not have adequate food, water or power:
that they may know your strength and peace, loving God -
be for them a rock and a stronghold.*

*In a world where many people are or feel alone;
where many do not know where to look for comfort;
where many see no purpose or future:
that they may know your strength and peace, loving God -
be for them a rock and a stronghold.*

In the name of the living Lord Jesus. Amen.

A personal prayer

*Show me your way; help me to know your truth,
and to live your life. Amen.*

Live your faith

Remember that, for you, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Try to think of a practical consequence of that in or for whatever you are about to do, wherever that may be.