



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Eucharistic Lectionary Year B</i></p> <p><i>Office Lectionary Year 1</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday Service:</u> 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Masks required</p>					<p>1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James <i>Belvia Riner Birthday</i></p>
<p>2 5 Easter</p>	<p>3 <i>Jean Chappell Birthday</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm Works of C.S. Lewis via Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Office open 9 am to 5 pm 10 am Confirmation/Inquirers Class</p>	<p>7 National Day of Prayer</p> 	<p>8 <i>David Boardman Birthday</i></p>
<p>9 6 Easter Rogation Sunday Mother's Day <i>Molly Barrow Birthday</i></p>	<p>10</p>  <p><i>Mothers Day</i></p>	<p>11 <i>John Chiles, Jr. Birthday</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Eric Schwind Birthday</i></p>  <p>6:30 pm Works of C.S. Lewis via Zoom</p>	<p>13 Ascension Day Bryan & Marla Small Anniversary Church Office open 9 am to 5 pm 10 am Con/Inq Class</p>	<p>14 <i>Kristina Fitzhugh, J. Russell Martin, Ruth Small Birthdays</i></p>	<p>15 Armed Forces Day</p> 
<p>16 7 Easter The Sunday after Ascension Day</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm Works of C.S. Lewis via Zoom</p>	<p>20 Macon Smith Birthday Church Office open 9 am to 5 pm 10 am Confirmation/Inquirers Class</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Pentecost: Whitsunday 1:00 pm Vestry Meeting</p> 	<p>24 <i>Corban Reinhold Birthday</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>TBA? Works of C.S. Lewis via Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Church Office open 9 am to 5 pm 10 am Confirmation/Inquirers Class</p>	<p>28 <i>Patricia Harlowe Birthday</i></p>	<p>29 Ember Day</p>
<p>30 1 Pentecost: Trinity Sunday</p> 	<p>31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>					

Christ Episcopal Church

The Messenger

May 2021

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How can I be saved?

This past month several of us have been reading C S Lewis' Mere Christianity and discussing what it means to be a Christian. How can I be saved? This is a question that was brought up to Jesus. It is a question that faces every Christian that tells the story of their path to and with Jesus to a non-believer. It is even a question that often confronts those who have been brought up in church but are still wrestling with what it means to be a Christian.

This is both a simple and hard question.

The simple answers come from Acts 16:31 Where Paul is speaking to a prison guard and says "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." It is possible the prison guard was more concerned with his physical life at that moment but Paul is offering him eternal salvation. In another passage from Paul, Ephesians 2:8 he says, "For by grace you are saved through faith; and not of yourselves, it is a gift of God." Belief/faith, and acceptance of God's gift. There is nothing we need do, nothing we can do but accept the gift.

The hard answers come with the concept of belief or faith. To believe something exists is not the same as having faith. I can believe the chair in my office exists, but to trust that it will function as a chair requires that I sit down and put my weight in the chair trusting it to hold me and not let me hit the ground. Jesus says that we must trust him with our lives, both our current earthly life and our eternal life beyond death. We must trust that following him is better than following our devices and desires.

In the story of the "rich young ruler" the man asks, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asks him first about his willingness to obey the Ten Commandments. Jesus often says, "if you love me, follow my commandments." When we love someone, we want to please them and we are willing to do things that bring them joy, even if it is not the thing we would prefer to be doing. Next Jesus tells the man to sell his possessions, give the proceeds to the poor, and follow him. This man's faith was in the ability of his possessions, his wealth, to keep him safe and happy and he was unable to let them go. Different people put their faith in different things. The question each person must ask is what is it that is getting in the way of my following Jesus. Are you willing to set that aside? The disciples wondered if anyone could do that? "Who then can be saved?" Jesus' response is "with God all things are possible"

The other hard answer is that Jesus does not promise that the journey will be easy. He tells people who want to follow him to expect persecutions. He tells them they need to take up their cross, they need to be willing to lose their life to gain it. Following Jesus means making a commitment. Thomas may have struggled with the concept of Resurrection, but when he fell down on his knees before Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God" he was making a statement of total commitment. It is what Jesus call us to do. It is what none of us can do on our own strength, but by the grace of the Holy Spirit and the mercy of Christ, himself, our "Yes, Lord" is enough.

Thank you Lord Christ, for the gift of salvation. Thank you for not expecting us to have all the right answers. Give us the strength and humility to say "yes Lord" when you call and teach us what it means to follow you. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings, Bev+

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