

# SERMON NOTES

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A \* May 24, 2020

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Acts 1:6-14 \* Psalm 68:1-10 \* 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 \* John 17:1-11

**Glad He's Gone!**

GOOD

versus

BAD

What's Jesus doing since his Ascension?

□ P\_\_\_\_\_ for us

Jesus prayed, "Father, protect them by the power of your Name – the Name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one."

John 17:11

□ P\_\_\_\_\_ O\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses (*martyrs*) in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

□ P\_\_\_\_\_ a place for us

At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms, and I am going to prepare a place for you, that you may be where I am."

John 14:2-3

□ P\_\_\_\_\_ for His "coming again in glory."

After his Ascension, the angels said to the disciples, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him leave."

Acts 1:11

Dear friends, do NOT be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come upon you, as though some strange thing were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12-13

God causes all things to work together for the good of those who are called to his purpose. Romans 8:28

In the COVID mess:

- No one has tested positive for the disease, though several think they had it, and one tested positive for the antibodies.
- 300-1,000 people watch our English service every week
- 400-1,000 people watch our French/Creole service every week
- We've given away 1,400 servings of Communion at Drive Thru
- Giving so far this year is the same as this time last year
- We received \$122,900 from the Payroll Protection Program
- We've touched in with everyone in the family by mail, phone, text, email, and/or social media
- We've upgraded our technological capabilities and can now livestream services from the church to the Parish Hall and beyond

## NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSONS

Acts 2:1-21 \* Psalm 104:25-37 \* 1 Corinthians 12:3-13 \* John 7:37-39

# Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. Tell about a time in your life when something happened that you initially thought was "bad," but turned out to be "good."
2. What is a good thing God has brought out of the COVID mess for you and/or your family?
3. Has the Messiah family helped you through the COVID mess? How or how not?
4. How would you like Jesus to pray for you today?
5. PRAY: Thanking God for bringing good out of bad.
  - ◆ For God to do what you mentioned in #4 above.
  - ◆ For any needs in your group.

