

THE LION

Volume 13

June/July 2019

Issue 6

Curate's Corner

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What does the world think about Jesus? Well, I suppose if you asked some they might say that Jesus is a great prophet while others might say that Jesus is nothing more than a good teacher or a very wise man. But what do you think about Jesus? Who do you think that Jesus truly is? And before you answer that question, I'd first like for you to consider who the Apostle John says that Jesus is. For you see, John knew Jesus. John was actually one of Jesus' twelve disciples. And not only that, but John decided to write an entire book dedicated to the subject of Jesus' true identity, an entire book dedicated to the subject of who Jesus truly is, a book which today we call The Gospel According to St. John.

And so, John begins his book, his Gospel, with these words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [...] And the Word became flesh (*that is, the Word became a human being*) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory." And in case you didn't catch it, John is making a very, very bold and provocative statement here about Jesus' identity. John is basically telling us that: JESUS IS GOD. And John is not just telling us that Jesus is the Son of God (*although Jesus is most certainly that as well*), but John is making it a point to tell us that Jesus is not the Son of God in the same sense that either Hercules or Achilles or any of those other semi-divine heroes of old were considered sons of god or sons of a god. No, for John Jesus actually IS God and God actually IS Jesus; and that is just simply not a point that John is willing to back down from.

All throughout John's Gospel, John is repeatedly telling us that Jesus did certain things or Jesus performed certain miraculous "signs" that all pointed to the fact that Jesus IS divine and JESUS IS GOD. In fact, John lists such miracles or "signs" as he calls them in his Gospel, which are: **1.** Jesus changes water into wine (*John 2:1-11*); **2.** Jesus heals the royal official's son (*John 4:46-54*); **3.** Jesus heals the paralytic (*John 5:1-15*); **4.** Jesus' feeding of the five thousand (*John 6:5-14*); **5.** Jesus walks on water (*John 6:16-24*); **6.** Jesus heals the blind man (*John 9:1-7*); and **7.** Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (*John 11:1-45*). And as if that were not enough, John also gives us the now famous seven "I AM" statements of Jesus. For in The Gospel According to St. John Jesus says: **1.** "I AM the Bread of Life" (*John 6:35*); **2.** "I AM the Light of the World" (*John 8:12*); **3.** "I AM the Gate" (*John 10:9*); **4.** "I AM the Good Shepherd" (*John 10:11*); **5.** "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (*John 11:25-26*); **6.** "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (*John 14:6*); and **7.** "I AM the Vine" (*John 15:5*). And let us not forget that "I AM" is the very name that God gave to Moses when in the third chapter of the Book of Exodus Moses asks: "And when I come to the children of Israel, who shall I say has sent me?" And God told Moses, 'I AM who I AM.' And God said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" For Jesus is the great "I AM" for JESUS CHRIST IS GOD. Jesus IS the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Jesus IS the God of the Old Testament as well as the New; for Jesus IS God in flesh!

And so, just as the Gospel of John began by telling us that Jesus is God, so does it also end with that very same bold statement. For in John 20:28 what is it that Thomas says to Jesus right after our Lord appears to him eight days after Easter? Thomas looks straight at Jesus and says, "My Lord and my God." And our Lord doesn't correct him. Our Lord doesn't say to Thomas, "Whoa, wait a minute Thomas; you have me confused. I'm not God. Don't call me that!" No, Jesus doesn't say anything like that. That simply is not what Jesus said.

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Instead, when Thomas looks at Jesus and says “My Lord and my God” Jesus just looks back at Thomas and says “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.” After all, there are many ways to see Jesus. And some may see Jesus simply as a prophet while others might see Him as nothing more than just a good teacher or a very wise man. But let us not forget that there is only one way of seeing Jesus that actually comes with a blessing; there is only one way of seeing Jesus that leads to eternal life; and there is only one way of seeing Jesus that leads to the bodily resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. And that is to see Jesus as God, to see Jesus as God in flesh for you and for me and for all.

So what do you think about Jesus? Who do you think that Jesus truly is? Do you think, as many do, that it doesn't really matter? Do you think, as many do, that Jews and Christians and Muslims all worship the same god because they all share portions of the same Scripture? Do you think, as many do, that all gods are equal and that every king's rule is exactly the same? Or do you believe as the Church believes that to reject Jesus is to reject God and to follow Jesus is to follow God? And do you believe that to follow God, to follow Jesus, is a path of both courage and mercy, a path of both love and strength, the only path that leads to life everlasting? For long ago the Apostle John wrote a book and in it he said: “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (*John 20:30-31*). Therefore, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (*John 8:58*). †

Music Notes

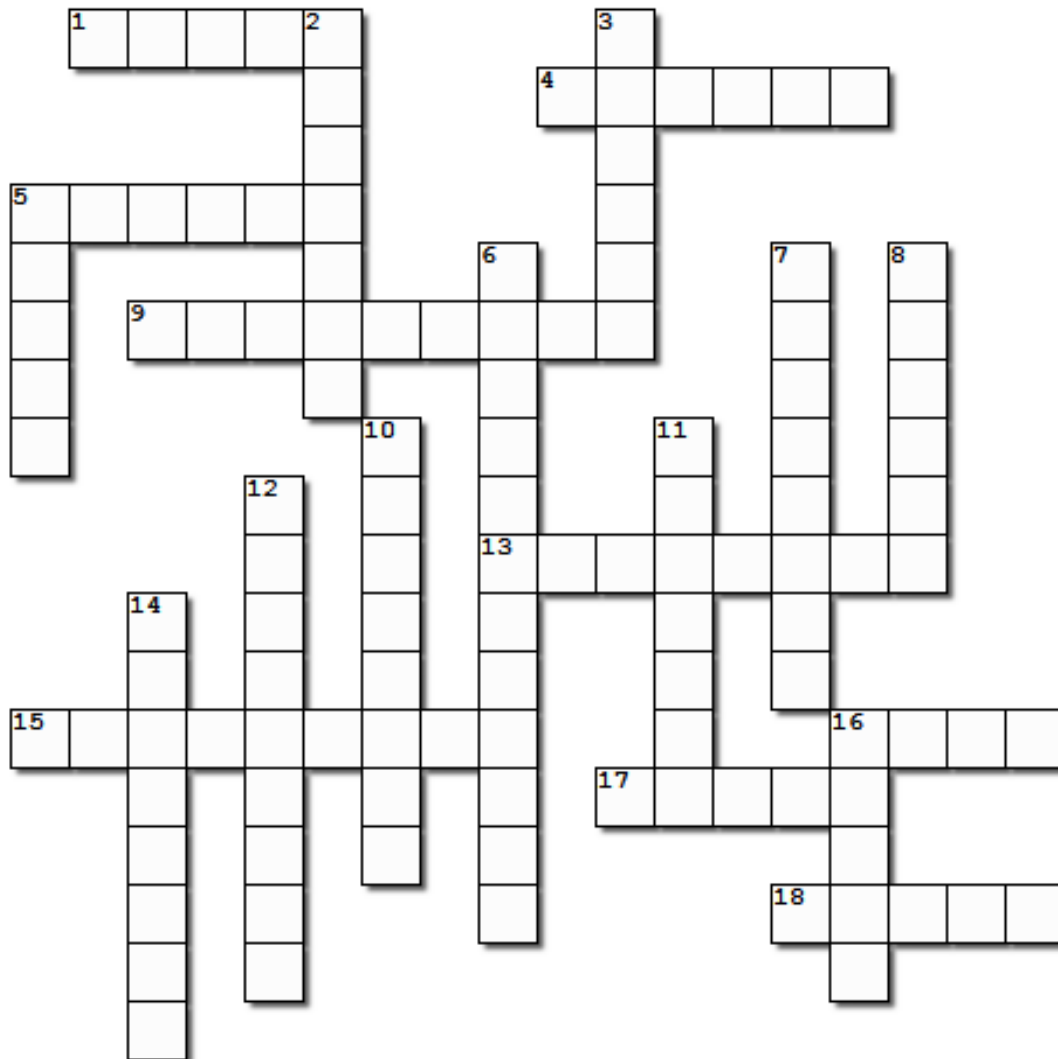
Kathleen Knott, Music Director / Organist

Hymn Tune Names

Have you ever noticed that at the bottom left of our hymns in *The 1982 Hymnal* next to the word music is a hymn tune name? The source of hymn tune titles may refer to historical events, geographical locations, composer histories, local languages or various other sources. For example, the tune for “Holy, holy, holy!” is called “Nicaea” and refers to the Council of Nicaea of AD 325 in which church leaders formulated the doctrine of the Trinity. This tune was written by John Dykes (1823-1876). Dykes also wrote and named the hymn tune “St. Agnes.” Agnes was a young Roman Christian woman. She was martyred in AD 304 for refusing to marry a nobleman. She is quoted as saying: “I am already engaged to Christ, to Him alone I keep my troth.” “St. Agnes” is the tune we use for “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove.” The tune for the famous hymn “Come down, O Love divine” was written by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The composer named the tune “Down Ampney” after the place of his birth. This hymn was first published anonymously in *The English Hymnal* (1906). The tune for the hymn “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” was written by Richard Prichard when he was 19 in 1830. The tune name is “Hyfrydol” which means “tuneful” or “pleasant” in Welsh. Another example of a Welsh tune is “Ton-y-Botel” (tune in a bottle) written by Thomas John Williams and first published in hymnals in 1890. We sing “Once to every man and nation” and “Thy strong word did cleave the darkness” to “Ton-y-Botel”. As you can see looking into hymn tune names can be quite informative and interesting.

I would like to thank the adult and children's choirs and handbell ringers for their hard work and dedication during the Lenten and Easter season.

The Book of Acts Crossword Puzzle



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. The first of Jesus twelve apostles to be martyred (Acts 12)
4. The governor in Acts 25
5. He baptized the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8
9. Forty days after Easter (Acts 1)
13. Judas Iscariot's Replacement (Acts 1)
15. The centurion who was baptized in Acts 10
16. Pharisee who was blinded on his way to Damascus (Acts 9)
17. Number of missionary journeys St. Paul went on in the Book of Acts
18. The governor in Acts 24

Down

2. The first Christian martyr (Acts 7)
3. The Holy Order that was established in Acts 6
4. The apostle whose shadow could heal people (Acts 5)
6. The main topic of debate at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)
7. She and King Agrippa greeted Festus in Acts 25
8. Prophet who predicted Paul's arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21)
10. Wife of Ananias who died shortly after her husband died (Acts 5)
11. Place where the followers of Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11)
12. Fifty days after Easter (Acts 2)
14. Son of Encouragement (Acts 4)
16. The number of men in Acts 6 who were appointed to oversee the distribution of food to the widows

Upcoming Holy Days

June/July/August/September/October/November Holy Days

June 10-11 (noon) – Whit-Monday, Whit-Tuesday
June 19 (noon) – Feast of St Barnabas the Apostle (transferred)
June 24 (noon) – The Nativity of St John the Baptist
June 29 (10:00 a.m.) – Feast of St Peter the Apostle
July 4 (10:00 a.m.) – Independence Day
July 25 (noon) – Feast of St James the Apostle
August 6 (noon) – Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
August 24 (10:00 a.m.) – Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle
September 21 (10:00 a.m.) – Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
October 18 (noon) – St Luke the Evangelist
October 28 (noon) – St Simon and St Jude, Apostles
November 1 (noon) – Feast of All Saints
November 28 (10:00 a.m.) – Thanksgiving Day
November 30 (10:00 a.m.) – St Andrew the Apostle



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