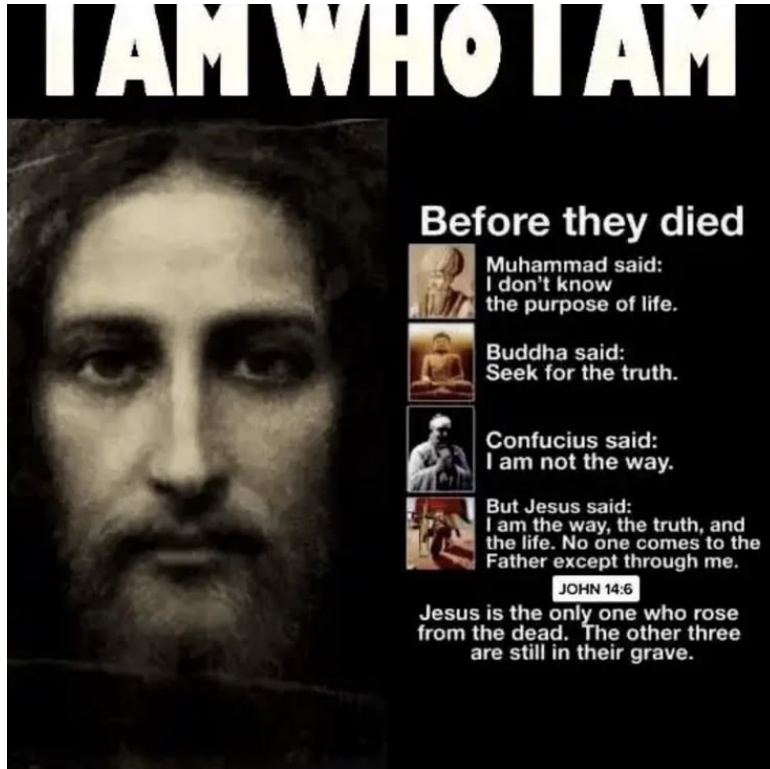


THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Son of the Living God



Background: The Gospel continues to come from the Book of Matthew. Matthew was an earnest Jew, who desired all Jews to know Christ and look to Him for their salvation. He gives specific details as to Jesus Christ being the Son of God and the only person that could fulfil the original promise made to Eve to be the Savior of the world. Along with the preacher to the Hebrews, nothing could be clearer that Christ is the Son of God, and having risen from the dead, we have a living advocate, Jesus Christ, to whom we can direct our prayers for forgiveness, So who was Christ? Like Peter, we confess **“HE WAS THE SON OF GOD!”** So what can we do? Paul answers that for us. WE apply our talents as God

has given them to us. If it is teaching, we teach, if it is encouraging, we encourage, if it is giving, we give generously, if it is leadership, we govern generously, if it is showing mercy, we do it cheerfully. What's neat, these are things done without regard to demands of Government or the world. But it is what makes the world a better place because Christians simply are **“Living Sacrifices.”**

The Lessons: **Isaiah 51:1–6, Romans 11:33—12:8, & Matthew 16:13–20:** Jesus asked His disciples: *“But who do you say that I am?”* (Matt. 16:15). The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is *“the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matt. 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even *“the gates of hell shall not prevail”* (Matt. 16:18–19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness *“will never be dismayed”* (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that *“joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song”* (Is. 51:3). Therefore, *“according to the measure of faith that God has assigned”* (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves *“as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”* (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.