

# DAVID PETERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

## “A Place for David”

John 14:1-6

Our Lord Jesus has prepared a place for David – a room in the house of his heavenly Father. And right now, David is enjoying his place. We don't know exactly what his place is like. We know that it's beyond our imagination and that David is with the Lord and with all the saints in heaven and is completely, totally happy and finally at peace.

But even though we know little about that place that Christ prepared for David and for all who are His, we do know how Christ prepared it. He didn't prepare it like we might prepare an earthly room – like make the bed, fluff the pillows, vacuum and dust.

When Christ promised to go and prepare a place for us he was speaking of a different kind of preparation. When he spoke the words of our text, He was about to be betrayed by Judas, arrested by his own people, suffer at the hands of sinful men and die on the cross. These things are some of the preparation of which he speaks.

You see, the problem of preparing a place not only for David but for all doesn't lie in the things we can do. In fact, the problem is we ourselves. We all, including David, are born in sin. The sins that David confessed in worship were too great for him to do anything about other than simply to confess them. In and of himself, David was unworthy for a place in his heavenly Father's home as are we all.

But Jesus did something to make such a place possible, not only for David but for all who are His by grace through faith. He opened the gates of paradise by suffering and dying on the cross and, in that, he paid for those sins.. You see Christ had to die the death that David and all of us deserve to die so that David and all of us might have forgiveness and, in that, life both now and forever.

If it were up to David or anyone of us, we would still be lost in our sins and subject, as we say, not only to temporal death but also to eternal condemnation. But Christ went the way of the cross so that we need not die eternally. And by rising again he showed David and all of us that all who are His will rise again as well. This he also did to prepare a place.

But there's more. This same Christ did even more than that. He not only acted two thousand years ago, he acted in David's life when He came to David in Holy Baptism. For, in Holy Baptism, Christ came into his life. That was the first resurrection – when David was raised to new life in Christ. And Christ continued to come in Word and Sacrament, as He forgave David his sins and assured him of that in the very Sacrament of His body and blood given and shed for the remission of his sins.

You see, Christ prepared the way for David because, in the end, Christ is the Way. By his suffering and death and resurrection, He showed himself to be the way for David. By His Holy Word and Sacraments, David received faith and forgiveness and life and salvation. There is no other way than Christ for no one comes to the Father except through Him.

Now David has a place with that Father in heaven alongside the saints and angels in the very presence of Almighty God where he now looks upon the glorious face of Him who was and is the Way and the Truth and the Life, the Lamb who was slain, the One who did it all for David.

The good news is not just what Christ did for David, the good news is that He has done for us all. It is my hope and prayer that we all may be preserved in the same faith and in the same Lord and that one day we may stand in the same place, prepared for us as well.

In Jesus' name. Amen.