

Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry

May 3, 2026

5th Sunday of Easter

Living Hope

Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.*

Prayer Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW p34)

Introduction: As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again 1 Peter 2: 2-10

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?

How is this passage lifting up identity and vocation of the community?

Where do you see this lived out in the community of faith today?

Where are the images of hope in this passage?

How does that encourage faith that is a *living hope*?

What does it mean to you to 'grow into salvation'?

To what effect is scripture used here?

See: Isa 28:16, Psalm 118:22, Isa. 8:14, Isa. 43:20-21, Exodus 19:5-6, Hosea 2:23

What verses or stories of scripture inform and encourage your journey as *living hope*?

Read again John 14: 1-14

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How does Jesus declaration in verse 1 both offer comfort and echo the voice of God throughout scripture?

What is the way, truth and life of God we come to know in Jesus?

How is that a *living hope*?

Read again Proverbs 4: 10-18

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is the wisdom offered in this passage?

Read and reflect on Psalm 119: 25-32 if you'd like. – How is that a response to the Proverbs reading!?

Prayer Requests and Prayer