

1. 1 Peter: *my Lord, a Living Hope*

You are my Lord. Psalm 16.5

...these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.
John 20.31

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who by His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...
1 Peter 1.3

This morning we have three great texts which, together, weave a beautiful tapestry that _____ the story of God's redemptive love in Christ and what it means to our lives.

We begin with Psalm 16 which is not just about the Christ, it's also about those who are _____ Christ.

The question is, "How do I enter into this abundant life portrayed by the Psalmist and lived by Jesus? The psalmist tells us, *I say to the Lord, 'You are _____ Lord.'* It's a choice, a choice that requires that I forsake all the gods of the culture that I, perhaps, unknowingly embraced.

_____, these are the words of the Psalmist spoken centuries before Jesus made His appearance on the world scene. *My Lord*, these are the same words spoken by Thomas when he witnessed the resurrected Christ. These are the words the Spirit invites us to speak from the depths of our hearts, *my Lord* until all the other gods are renounced.

What does it _____ to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God? To say to Jesus, *You are my Lord* is an exclusionary confession of faith; it allows for _____ other gods.

There have been long drawn out struggles until I finally was _____ by the Holy Spirit to give up these other gods and allow Jesus to be *my Lord*.

Our Lord Jesus Christ.... Jesus is *our Lord!* *Our Lord* is the communal expression of *my Lord* in the Psalm and on Thomas' lips. As *our Lord*, He has been appointed by God as Lord of the _____, and exercises His lordship over the universe on our behalf and for our benefit.

By God's mercy and through Christ's resurrection we have been given a _____ birth. This new birth brings a great blessings into our lives -a *living hope*.

This living hope is _____ in us! This living hope, Christ Himself, is with us when the sun rises every morning and sets every evening. He is *a living hope!*

Let us invite the Holy Spirit to search our hearts to see if there is any wicked way in us, then lead us in the path of life, so that _____ can confess, like the Psalmist and

Thomas before us, *my Lord*, for in Christ's Presence *there is fulness of joy, in His right Hand are pleasures forevermore.*