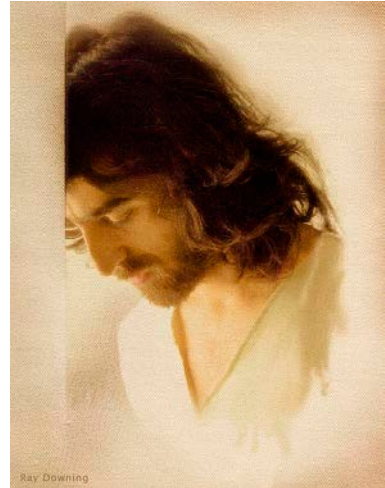


Saint Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz
May 28, 2017
7th Sunday of Easter (WELS B.)
John 17:11b-19



¹¹ *(I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you.)* **Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.** ¹² **While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.** ¹³ **“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.** ¹⁴ **I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.** ¹⁵ **My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.** ¹⁶ **They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.** ¹⁷ **Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.** ¹⁸ **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.** ¹⁹ **For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.**

Children of our Heavenly Father, precious in His sight for Jesus' sake:

Memorial Day weekend. The United States was at War. Imagine a young man named Melvin. Melvin believes in his ♥ of ♥s that he doesn't carry a gun or shoot anyone. At the same time he believes his country's cause is just. He just can't take another life. What can he do? He can serve his country as a corpsman – giving first aid even on the battle field. There is a terrible battle – and Melvin is treating the wounded and the dying for so many hours straight he is completely exhausted – on the point of collapse. Melvin's commanding officer orders Melvin to go down the road – find a tree – curl up against it and take a nap. When he wakes up – come back and help some more. Melvin runs down the road – curls up and in a moment is fast asleep. Nobody knows how long it was – Melvin wakes up – looks around – rubs his eyes and runs back up the road to help. Around the corner he comes and there where his first aid station used to

be – there is only a crater in the ground – where a massive artillery shell must have exploded. Everyone – wounded and workers – everyone is dead. Everyone except Melvin – who was down the road taking a nap! Melvin is almost overwhelmed not just with grief – but guilt – *survivor* guilt. Why was he spared? Why was he still alive when everyone else was killed? He should have died – but he didn't! Can you understand that? Can you appreciate that? There are some 7 billion+ people living in the world right now? How many know Jesus is their Savior from sin and how many don't? Do we understand and appreciate *survivor* guilt? Why am I saved? Why do I know Jesus is my Savior and so many people don't? Why am I so blessed to know Jesus is praying for me?

Thursday was Ascension Day! Nobody sent out Ascension Day cards – I don't think. Nobody baked Ascension Day cookies – although cloud shaped sugar cookies with Jesus in frosting would seem appropriate. We had Ascension supper between services – people who love our Lakeside Lutheran High School made supper for Jesus Thursday night – and one has to be reminded of Advent and Lenten Suppers – fellowship that is precious and sweet! Next Sunday is going to be Pentecost – Old Testament Thanksgiving. Again – a day of feasting. A day to remember the Great Commission – to **go and made disciples** – students and followers and imitators of the Lord Jesus – **disciples of all nations!** How do you do that? You make disciples by the means of grace – the Gospel in baptism and in Scripture! Then we will have Trinity Sunday – the miracle of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three persons – one God. Then Sundays after Pentecost – until October 29th – the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation! Then daylight savings time will end – with an extra hour of sleep. Sweet! We will celebrate All Saints' Day – to remember all the people we love – who we will see again in Heaven. We will have Final Judgment; Saints Triumphant which is what we are; then Christ the King! Advent will begin – preparing our ♥s to celebrate Christmas! How great will that be?!

So – today we are between Ascension and Pentecost. Again in spirit we are with the Lord Jesus and His disciples – between Lord's Supper and Gethsemane's prayerful bloody sweat! Today we are concentrating on the close of Jesus' high-priestly prayer. It's some of the very last words of instruction and encouragement Jesus spoke to His students – before He would literally be crucified! Today we hear:

Jesus Prays For Us!

1. Our Father protects us

2. Our Father makes us strong to share Jesus

Jesus prayed: **Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.** Jesus' disciples need protection from the enemies of our faith and soul. Our enemies are the devil, the world and our painfully sinful flesh. Our first enemy is the devil. The devil is Beelzabub – the lord of the flies! If you grew up on a farm when you hear flies you know you are near fertilizer or by something dead and decaying. That's where the devil is the lord of the flies – by fertilizer and rot and decay! The devil is the ruler of the kingdom of the air! He is the ruler of nothing. The devil is not even the boss of Hell! Hell is a prison – a lake of fire where the devil and the demons he led in rebellion against his Heavenly Father will be imprisoned forever – apart from all of God's goodness and love! God's Word says, **"Submit yourselves then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you!"** James 4:7 Resist the devil and his temptations. Don't fall for old and rusty and hurtful temptations. In Jesus' name stand strong against the devil and Jesus will force him to leave you alone! There is pressure from this sinful world. Pressure to be like everyone else. We went to *Lowe's* the other day and people got out of their Jeep in the handicap zone – and the Mom cursed her son who drove her there – cursed him so loudly out in the parking lot that you could not ignore what she said. We went to *Wal-Mart* the other day and there was a mom with little children. The mom had some of the absolutely most foul obscenities printed on her T-shirt. Try to watch TV – and the language and the subject matter are absolutely obscene – absolutely *obscene*. You can escape and avoid some of that – by fast forward through most of the commercials – by realizing that some programs are absolutely *blasphemous*. They heap scorn and ridicule on Jesus and His suffering and death on the \dagger . Again and again the Pastors and Teachers and people who believe in Jesus are portrayed as hypocrites – portrayed as the most hateful and horrible and judgmental people of all. So – don't watch them – don't! It's easier to resist the devil – to be ***in the world – but not of the world***. But the worst enemy of our faith has to be our own sinfully flawed flesh. Run as fast as you can down the street – speed in your car to the farthest intersection – slam on the brakes – and there you are flawed by sin through and through. So Jesus prays: **Holy Father,**

protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. God the Father gave His Son the name Jesus. Remember when the angel Gabriel came to visit Mary? ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." Remember Prof. Balge talked about the name Joshua – essentially the name Jesus – at Prep Graduation May 20th – the name Savior! Jesus is God – **and God is love!**

None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. The Bible is full of painful examples of how the mighty are fallen. The Sons of Korah – remember them? They wrote Psalms – songs, hymns of praise to be chanted as part of Tabernacle then Temple worship. We sing them in Church still today! And yet – they rebelled against Moses – against the LORD actually. Korah and Dathan and Abiram disrespected Moses and disrespected the LORD who called Moses. Moses warned the assembly, "**Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.**" So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances of their tents. Moses said: If these men die of old age then the LORD did not send me. **But if the LORD brings about something entirely new – then you will know the LORD sent Moses. As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possession. They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from their community... And fire**

came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense. Numbers 16. The LORD told Moses to tell Eleazar – the son of Aaron to remove the censers from the charred remains and scatter the coals some distance away, for the censers are holy – (*that is set apart and dedicated to the LORD*) the censers of the men who sinned at the cost of their lives. Hammer the censers into sheets to overlay the altar. Every time after that – when you looked at the altar and saw those sheets of metal – you would be reminded of the LORD’s fierce anger against sin and rebellion against God’s glory even in Church! The examples multiply. Do we remember the women Samson knew before he met Delilah? Do you remember Delilah and how they cut Samson’s hair – the hair that was supposed to never be cut – because he was to live his whole life as a Nazarite – dedicated to serving the LORD – like Samuel – and like John the Baptist? Remember when they brought Samson to the temple dedicated to the Philistine’s false god – small “g” – Dagon – with some 3,000 men and women on the roof to watch Samson perform-and Samson brought the whole temple crashing down on all the rulers of the Philistines, too? Do you remember Saul – head and shoulders above all those in Israel – yet he fell into gross sin and error and finally fell on his own sword in despair? Remember King David – a man after the LORD’s own ♥! The shepherd King who wrote, **“The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul... Yea though I walk through the shadow of death – literally the darkest place I will fear no evil for thou art with me... If you had told David – you will commit actual physical adultery with Bathsheba – then contract murder to kill her husband Uriah – I think he would have said, “Are you familiar with David and the warrior giant Goliath”? I’m David the giant slayer. I’m the one who wrote the 23rd Psalm. I would never do such a wicked thing! But he did! Simon Peter who literally walked on water – said he would never deny Jesus! He would die with Him. But Simon Peter cursed and swore, “I don’t know the man!” And the rooster crowed! Thomas doubted and Judas betrayed his Savior for 30 silver coins – then despaired of Jesus’ forgiveness! How tragic is that? If any of us thinks we are stronger than they were. We would never sin as they did – be very careful!**

¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is

not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ **They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.** ¹⁷ **Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.** This world hates the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen and it hates us too – if by our life we reflect Jesus’ forgiving love! I read the other day about three nurses in the United States Army who served in WW I in France. Their names were Jane, Linnie and Irene. They were part of a mobile army surgical hospital before they thought to called them a M*A*S*H. These nurses continued to treat the wounded and the dying even as they were being shelled – even as the enemy fired upon them. It was determined that these three nurses – above any others – deserved the equivalent of the Silver Star for bravery! Time went by and it was discovered – even though it was determined to give Jane, Linnie and Irene these medals – nobody actually did! By the time they actually gave them their medals – they had all three actually died! How sad is that? People forget! Again in this world so spoiled by sin – sometimes we forget things that are very *very* important! It is only because of the grace of God – that Jesus never ever forgets us. Jesus always loves us – always forgives us – always protects us – always builds our faith through the truth of the Gospel! Jesus’ forgiving love never fails. Let us never stop saying, **“Thank you, Jesus!”** Amen!

To God alone all glory!



Rev. Anthony E. Schertz