



Now they know that  
everything you have  
given me is from you;  
for the words that  
you gave to me  
I have given to them.

John 17:7, NRSV

**Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 21, 2023**

# FAITH LUTHERAN

## An Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Ministers:** *The Disciples at Faith Lutheran Church*

**Pastor:** *The Rev. Thomas A. Cassem*

**Organist:** *Helena Bradford*

## INTRODUCTION

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

## **WE PREPARE**

## **WORSHIP PREPARATION**

*When we hear the three chimes, we prepare ourselves for the beginning of our worship service.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter.



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your  
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you  
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on  
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*As the presiding minister begins, all may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

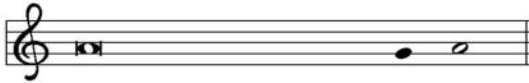
P The joy and peace of God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

# WE PRAISE GOD

## KYRIE

ELW pg. 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



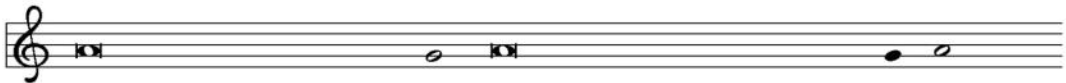
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



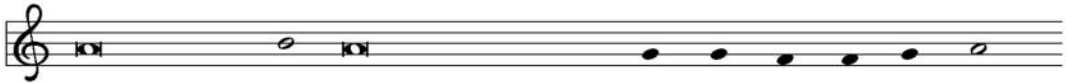
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

**Song continues on next page with Stanza 2**

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **First Reading: Acts 1:6-14**

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

We will read responsively by whole verse.

*Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup>**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire,  
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;  
exalt the one who rides the clouds;  
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

<sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

<sup>6</sup>**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup>**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

<sup>10</sup>**Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.

<sup>33</sup>**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup>**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

L The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



## **Gospel: John 17:1-11**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*All children are invited to come to the Altar steps for a special "Children's message".*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Thomas A. Cassem**

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 715  
Stanzas 1, 2, 5

### Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

# **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

L United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

L God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L We lift up to you all who are especially on our hearts silently or spoken.  
(*A Brief Silence for Petitions*) Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen.**

# SHARING OUR LORD'S PEACE

*The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

# OFFERING

*Offerings given for the mission of the church. Please place offerings in basket in Narthex.*

# OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT

# HOLY COMMUNION

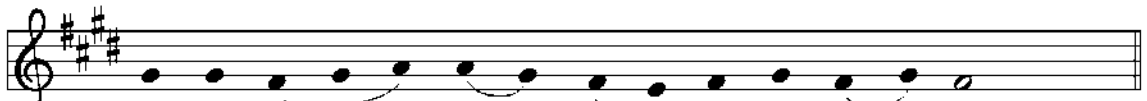
## Great Thanksgiving




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.



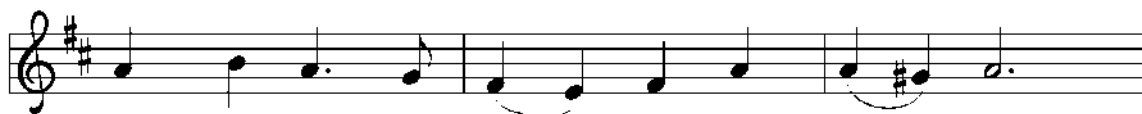
*The presiding minister continues:*

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The Pastor leads us in the Words of Institution (Not Printed)*

*Please direct your attention to the altar.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Gifts of God for the People of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

## Communion Distribution

*Please be seated. All who celebrate with us the presence of the risen Christ in Holy Communion are invited to join us for this sacrament. We receive communion at the communion rail. Please remain seated until the ushers invite you to commune by pew. When you come forward, please return to your seat by the outside aisle. Children are invited for a blessing.*

*If you would like to communion brought to you in your pew, please notify an usher.*

## Communion Hymn

ELW 465

### As the Grains of Wheat

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for-giv-en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di-vi-sion  
 4 The Spir-it of the ris-en Christ, un-seen, but ev-er  
 5 To-geth-er met, to-geth-er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je-sus to re-call in  
 fed, the new com-mu-ni-ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend-ship bet-ter known, a-  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com-mu-nion bread, in Christ's com-mu-nion bread.  
 strang-ers now are friends, and strang-ers now are friends.  
 live a-mong us here, a-live a-mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## **Communion Blessing**

**P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Communion Prayer**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **WE ARE SENT** **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

**C** **Amen**

## Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;  
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.  
Go in peace. Serve our Risen Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



***Our Worship Ends + Our Service Begins***

## Seventh Sunday of Easter — May 21, 2023

### God Doesn't Do Magic

It happens in the movies all the time: just as we are made to believe that all hope is lost and evil will triumph, suddenly the hero discovers a mystical phrase that will give him supernatural strength to defeat the enemy. Or the heroine finds a charmed sword that gives her the power to do the same. Believing in movie magic can be a welcome respite from the grind of everyday life. Knowing an enchanted word that keeps us impervious to harm sounds incredible—who wouldn't want that? Those moments may work in the movies, but they don't happen in real life.

Don't confuse Jesus' words in today's gospel with a magic spell or incantation. As Jesus prays for his disciples, he knows the suffering they will soon endure because they have come to believe in him. There is no way to avert what they will undergo; each one of his disciples is headed toward a certain and painful death, just as Jesus is. Jesus knows these things cannot be prevented, but that isn't the point of his prayer.

Being in the world means bad things will happen to us. Crosses aren't special charms that keep evil away, and wearing one won't keep you from harm. Tragedies take place, people get sick, bullies victimize, the innocent get blamed. There are no magic words to prevent hardships or disasters. When Jesus prays for the Father to protect those who belong to him, he isn't asking God to keep those bad things from happening. The name of God was never intended to create force fields around us keeping bad things out. God and the one who comes in God's name make us one together with them. In this unity, life always triumphs in the end.