

Easter 7            6/1/14  
John 17:1-11    A

HOLY FATHER, KEEP THEM IN YOUR NAME, WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE.

In Fontana, California there was a man whose name is Richard M. Nixon. Even though his middle name is Mark not Milhouse, he is a Democrat and he is considerably younger than the famous – or should I say infamous -- Richard M. Nixon; having that name has brought him no end of trouble. He was often teased mercilessly. At work they would often greet him with a "Good morning, Mr. President. How are things at the White House?" Once he was stopped by a policeman for speeding. He didn't have his license or his registration with him and when he told the officer his name, the officer said, "Okay, you smart punk out of the car." After the officer ran a check on the license plate and found out that Mr. Nixon was indeed telling the truth, the office burst out laughing and sent him on his way.

Richard M. Nixon of Fontana, CA, was just a guy who happened to have a similar name to a well-known man of that same name. But for this Mr. Nixon, there was almost nowhere to run, nowhere to get away from this name, his name. He said, "It used to be funny, but now it's getting quite irritating!"

What's in a name? In our lesson this morning, Jesus is praying. The time has come for Him to go to the cross. Before going to the cross and death, His resurrection and returning to the Father at His ascension, He prays – He prays for Himself, for His disciples, and for you. He prays that we may be one with Him and one with each other. And, that only happens when we know God and we know God because He makes Himself known to us in His name.

So, what's in a name? In ancient cultures, naming a child was a very serious task. There were rules to follow, traditions to uphold. Things are a little different today. Children are given the names of movie or TV stars, sports figures, an ancestor; but mostly, children are given names that are popular or merely sound good to their parents' ears. In Jesus' day, the naming of a person was much more important. It was vital to who the child was as a person. It was more than a title. It was more than a pleasant

sound to family and friends. Names brought identity, rooting a person in a community. Names reflected one's character or even defined one's purpose in life.

Which helps us understand the name of God. God's name is much more than just a title. Our *Small Catechism* teaches us this,

*What is God's Name?*

God, as He has revealed Himself to us, His essence and His attributes.

The name of God is above all other names, because only God is the true, living God, all other so-called "gods" are idols fashioned and made from the sinful reason of human beings. It is a Name that is full of God's life, God's forgiveness, God's peace, God's power, God's blessing, and His eternal protection. God Himself has made that Name known to us all!

Jesus teaches us about God's name, that we are to pray, "Hallowed be Thy name." In his little Catechism, Luther teaches us,

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*How is God's name kept holy?* God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it.

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity. In our day, we hear that all religions – Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists – all worship the same god and are all going to the same heaven. Even among Christians who reject that lie, there is this sentiment often expressed that we have Jesus and that's all we need to be one. These Christians look at us Lutherans and see Baptism and Holy Communion, often Holy Absolution as well, as just "stuff" that we add to Jesus. But, these means of grace are the Gospel, and if we deny them, we are denying the Gospel and dishonoring and blaspheming the name of God among us.

And, we live a holy life according to the Word of God. Yah, right! OK, we are supposed to, but ...

God forgives us. Jesus teaches us that we are to forgive our neighbor "seventy times seven," meaning, without limit, just as God

forgives us. But, we don't want to do that. We keep a good record of our neighbor's wrongs and remain angry at our neighbor, and hate them.

We stand squarely against the legalization of homosexual union, but we have no problem laughing at off-color jokes and that is just as offensive to God. We would never think of breaking into our neighbor's home and taking their stuff, and yet, we don't help our neighbor in their need because our money or our time is our idol. Speak well of our neighbor and explain everything in the kindest way? Nah ... gossip is just too much fun.

This is not the one-ness for which Jesus prays. It is sin and sin separates. Sin separates us from God and from one another. And, the devil wants nothing more than for us to be separated from God and from one another. Our flesh and reason want nothing to do with submitting to God's Word and living a holy life

What's in a name? God's Name is Holy and it is Holy for us in Jesus! His name, Jesus, literally means "Yahweh saves." God saves us by sending His only-begotten Son in the flesh to take our place under God's judgment. He does that by taking our sin upon Himself and carrying that sin to the cross, where all of God's anger is poured out on Him, so we would be spared God's anger. And His blood is shed to cleanse us from all our sin. As the Bible says in Acts 4, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (4:12)." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name by which we must be saved!

What are we to do with that name? Trust in His Name. Receive that Name through the washing of Holy Baptism, where God literally puts His Name on you as He splashes it all over you. That Name brings holiness, life, and salvation for you as a gracious gift of God, working through the water and the Word.

There is also power and protection in this Name. In Psalm 121, Yahweh, the Lord, is described as One Who does not slumber, Who does not sleep. He never grows weary; He protects us from evil and literally watches over a believer's life.

God's Name guards and protects His people when the battle is beyond men's might. Jesus prays, "Keep them in your name, which you

have given Me, that they may be one, even as we are one.” God puts His name on us so that we might live by faith without fear. He is our mighty fortress. That is His Name. He is the one who says, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” When the God of heaven and earth, the God of the cross and resurrection is with you, we have real protection in the Name of Jesus!

So, what's in a name? Cherish that name that is above all names. Love and trust in Jesus' Name as your Lord and Savior. Hear how He prays for you today. Hear that He loves you and He wants your name to be a blessing to others as He calls you to be His own. Because in His Name for you there is holiness and salvation, there is power and protection, and in His Name, there is unity and peace for you and for all.

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# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

June 1, 2014



*We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never  
die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.  
I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

*Romans 6:9; John 14:18*

**DIVINE SERVICE**

Setting One

**Hymn of Invocation**

# 493 (st. 1-4)

**Confession & Absolution**

p. 151

**Introit**

I will sing of steadfast love and justice;

**to you, O Lord, I will make music.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord, he is God!

**It is he who made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

**Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy**

**Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will sing of steadfast love and justice;

**to you, O Lord, I will make music.**

**Kyrie**

p. 152

**This is the Feast**

p. 155

**Salutation & Collect**

p. 156

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**First Lesson: Acts 1:12-26 (ESV)**

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and

James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, " 'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and" 'Let another take his office.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

### **Gradual**

Christ has risen from the dead.

**God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,**

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
**he has put all things under his feet.**

**Epistle Reading:** 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11 (ESV)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**"Alleluia"**

p. 156

**Holy Gospel:** St. John 17:1-11 (ESV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, *"Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom*



*You have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.*

*"I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.*

<b>Nicene Creed</b>	p. 158
<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	# 494 {tune: Galilean}
<b>Sermon</b>	What's in a Name?
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>"What Shall I Render"</b>	p. 159
<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 160
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	# 525, 619
<b>"Thank the Lord"</b>	p. 164
<b>Post-Communion Collect</b>	p. 166
<b>Benediction</b>	p. 166
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 492

**Welcome to worship** on the last Sunday of the Easter season. This Sunday marks a unique time for the life of the Lord's Church. Our Lord has ascended into heaven; the promised Comforter has not yet come at Pentecost. We pray this Sunday, "Leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth You promised from the Father." Our Lord hears and answers our cry of faith. He keeps His promise not to leave us as helpless orphans, but sends the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

**Vacation Bible School** begins tonight and continues through Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup>. VBS will be 5:00 pm—7:30 pm each day. Registration sheets are on the table in the social hall. Please give all completed sheets to Joslyn Frey or Anne Rosenow. All children are invited to join us! Please join us for the closing program, Thursday, 6:30 pm.



**Stewardship Chair:** We are in need of a Stewardship Chairman to serve on the Church council. If you are interested, please talk to Jamey Backus.

**LWML Convention:** The women of the Southeast Zone of the LWML North Dakota District are busy with preparations to make your time in Wahpeton for the LWML Convention on June 20-22 spiritually-uplifting and enjoyable. They are hoping and praying that each church in North Dakota sends two women delegates who will vote for new officers and mission grants for the next biennium. And hopefully, many more teen girls and women of all ages and their guests will come and participate in servant events, the Saturday evening trip to the Bagg Bonanza Farm for dinner and the mite walk on Sunday morning. Dorm rooms are still available by completing the registration form found at [ndlwml.org](http://ndlwml.org). Come and be Filled with God's Word and Sacrament so that you will be Overflowing with His love and compassion for His people everywhere.

**The June calendar**, birthday and anniversary sheet, April council minutes, June pray for us calendar and children's devotional booklets are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.

**In our thoughts and prayers,**

- † Brooks Bauer (Della's son) & Bernice Herrmann;
- † For favorable weather, that all agricultural endeavors may result in an abundant harvest.



**Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance**

Attendance: 67 Offerings: \$2,068.00

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” God's grace is His undeserved mercy toward us. And what do we have that is not a gift flowing from God's grace? He means for us to use all these gifts in service toward one another. And chief among the ways we serve one another is to support the Church's work of bringing more of God's grace to more of God's people. And that's what it means to be a steward!

***We are the North Dakota District...***

Next Sunday-Wednesday (June 8-11), I will be leading a retreat at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads for pastor's children. It isn't easy growing up in the world today for anyone. Being the child of clergy, however, has its own unique challenges and issues. Please pray for your pastor's children as well as encouraging them and showing your genuine care for them.

President Baneck

## † This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	10:30 am	Worship @ Glen Ullin
	5:00—7:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
Monday	5:00—7:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Topic Leaders
	2:00 pm	Bible Class
	5:00—7:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
Wednesday	5:00—7:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
Thursday	5:00—7:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
	6:30 pm	Vacation Bible School Closing Program
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	10:30 am	Worship @ Glen Ullin

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM

Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223

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Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

*Please use a pew card to record your worship and/or  
Communion attendance this morning.*