

Easter 7          6/1/25  
John 17:20-26   C

Sermon text this morning is our Gospel reading, from the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's Gospel

“Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer.” This Sunday [ready for a big word] is known as “Exaudi” Sunday, and takes its name from our Introit. “Hear [Exaudi] my prayer, O God.” Our assurance and comfort are that Father does indeed hear the Son's cry of faith, and makes us one with Jesus and one with each other in Christ.

Look at the words of our Gospel. Jesus is praying. He prays for the apostles. They are, after all, the ones who will preach the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, in *“Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”* (Ac 1:8).

But, Jesus also prays for all those who will come to believe in Him through the word of the apostles. In other words, Jesus prays for you, because you believe that Jesus died and rose and ascended for you.

And this is His prayer: Jesus prays that we may be one just as He and the Father are one. When you stop and think about that, when you think about God and the Godhead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that that is one -- one uncreated, one infinite, one Almighty, one Lord -- you start to see that Jesus is praying for a whole lot of one.

He wants us to be one and the oneness for which He prays has a purpose – *“so that the world may believe that you have sent Me”* (v. 21). So that the world may see this oneness that the Father has sent Jesus and that the Father loves Jesus and that the Father loves the world as much as He loves Jesus.

Jesus prays that we would be one, just as He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, but the unfortunate, sad thing is this – the oneness that we so often show is not the oneness in Christ Jesus, but the oneness that we have in Adam.

Look at your life. Your words, your deeds, your thoughts. God says, *Do not let the sun go down on your anger (Ep 4:26)*. But, you do. You are resentful, bitter, and keep a good record of your neighbor's failures. *You shall not steal*, right? No, you would never even dream of sneaking into your neighbor's garage and stealing their fishing rod, but you do not help your neighbor in their need; so you can hoard and hoard some more for yourself. Oh, and then God says this, *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor*, but, but, you do. Your wagging tongue tells lies about your neighbor, gossip, slander, just so you can feel better about yourself. Don't forget this one, Be content, "Do not covet". But, your heart, not to mention your words and actions, do desire your neighbor's wife, job, home, stuff.

The oneness that you show in your life is the oneness that you have with you father, Adam. It causes you to do your own thing, go your own way with little, if any, regard for anyone else.

So, while Jesus is praying for oneness, our sins are dividing us and separating us, one from another, giving witness to the world such that the world looks at us Christians and says, "I don't know about this Jesus. I don't know if I want anything to do with Him, because I certainly do not want anything to do with them."

But, here's the Good News: Jesus does more than just simply pray for us. Jesus also does something else for us. Listen to His prayer,

*The glory that you have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know what you sent Me and loved them even as you loved Me (vv. 22-23).*

Jesus prays, but in addition to prayer, He also gives. And what He gives is the glory that the Father has given to Him.

When we first hear that, we think, “That sounds pretty good,” because we love glory. We like the sound of that because we often equate glory with things like angel choirs, crowns of gold, robes of white, and resting from our labor; and indeed, that is all very glorious. But, that’s not what we need to be thinking about when Jesus says *“the glory that you have given Me.”*

The glory that Jesus is talking about is the glory that comes about as He empties Himself to take on the form of a servant. It’s the glory Jesus has as He is incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. It’s the glory Jesus has as He goes around healing and teaching, only to be rejected by His own people. It’s the glory Jesus experiences as His own apostles betray and abandon and deny Him; the glory that comes when He is convicted in a mockery of a trial; the glory that comes when He is stripped and His face is bloodied from the blows and the crown of thorns; the glory as He is marched out to Golgotha, nailed to the cross and hangs there for six hours, a sign proclaiming “This is the king of the Jews,” and He dies.

That’s the glory of the only Son of the Father. That’s the glory that the Father has given to Jesus, for it is the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ to do all that for you. To live His life in perfect obedience to God the Father’s will. It is His glory to take upon Himself all of your sins of thought, word, and deed, and then suffer the punishment that you deserve for those sins

by being abandoned by the Father, put to death on the cross, and buried in a borrowed tomb. That is the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as He gives His life for you. And because He did, all of your sins are forgiven. And, He rises the 3<sup>rd</sup> day to give that glory to you.

The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ comes to you at the font of Holy Baptism. Through the water and the Word, you are joined to Jesus. You are joined to Him in His crucifixion, His death, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension; in other words, you are joined to His glory, such that the glory that He was given by the Father, He gives to you and you have the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

And something else marvelous and wonderful takes place. You become one in Jesus Christ, just as He and the Father are one. That means you also become one with everyone gathered in God's House today -- your brothers and sisters in Christ. The purpose of that oneness is for the Church's witness to the world, so that the world would understand that God sent His Son into this world, and He loves the world as much as He loves His Son.

This is what happens when you are baptized into Christ. You become one with Christ and one with each other in Christ. St. Paul writes about this oneness in His letter to the Ephesians,

*There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (4:4-6).*

Exaudi. "Hear my cry, O God." God hears Jesus, as He prays that you may be one. He prays that the sin which divides us may be done away with and that we would be one Him for the purpose that the world knows

that God sent His Son into the world, and that God loves them as much as He loves His Son.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.