

Easter #7

5-16-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Vicar Karen Pugatch

Celebrate (Introduction)

“The gospel for Easter’s seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his follower will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpreting life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“O Day of Rest and Gladness”](#)

Psalm: Psalm 1

“Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
³ He is like a tree
planted by streams of water,
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff which the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.”

Hymn of Praise: [“You Servants of God”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Acts 1:15-17, 21-26](#)

2nd Reading: [1 John 5:9-13](#)

The Gospel: John 1:6-19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3A6-19&version=NRSV>

Hymn of the Day: [“O Jesus. I have Promised”](#)

The Message: ([Video Link](#))

All expecting parents go through the process of naming their forthcoming child. For some the process is rather quick but for others it may be the long drawn out process of elimination. The finale decision may involve a multitude of factors from naming after a relative to just liking how the name sounds. Some may even research what the various names mean. But for all practical purpose, the meaning of the name given has very little to do with the life of the person. The given and last names are for the purpose of identification and have little to no influence as to who the person turns out to be or who we are ultimately..

On the other hand, who we are, that is how we live our lives, highly influences how others view our identity, our names. If an attribute, either good or bad, is associated with us then when our name is mention, whether it be us or not, that attribute flashes across our minds. That name, when we hear or see it, is forever tainted in our minds, either positively or negatively. For instance when we hear the name Adolf we may immediately associate it with the last name Hitler and thus have a negative association with that name. This is in spite of the meaning of the name and its derivatives, In this case Adolf means “noble wolf,” which may present a more positive reaction. On the other hand, names like Abraham and Mary most likely bring a more positive reactions within our minds. Therefore, names in and of themselves take on a meaning within our minds as to with whom we associate them and not the dictionary definition.

It is the life behind the name which influences how we react to it. Therefore, when someone’s name is mentioned what immediately comes to mind is what in reality we associate with it. The name means little or nothing but the life behind the name means everything.

In our Gospel lesson, Jesus’ prayer reveals that He had made God’s name known to those who were His followers. It is interesting to note there was a long standing rule or tradition of avoiding the use of God’s name since it just might violate the commandment, “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.” For this reason they used the word “Adonai” which translates into the word Lord. When Lord was used in place of Yahweh it is written in capital letters with the first letter larger than the remaining letters. Just look at the Psalm in today’s Celebrate or insert.

With Jesus all of this changed. Jesus’ came in order to bring a new understanding which was associated with the name of Yahweh or God. The nature of God was considered to be a God of revenge and harsh judgment. Jesus came to clear any misconceptions and to do just the

opposite of the long standing rules and traditions. He came to make God's name known. God's name and His very nature were no longer to be hidden. Jesus gave life and new meaning of God, for God was now seen through the life of Jesus. Therefore, when Jesus' name is mentioned we can begin to understand the very nature of God. Through association with Jesus the name of God means and is the ultimate example of love and forgiveness.

The small band of ordinary people, Jesus' followers, His disciples, were given the truth about the name of God as taught and lived by Jesus. Therefore, the name of God found fulfillment through the life and witness of these first followers. This was captured in Jesus' prayer that night in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion. He prayed "Now they know everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave 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."

Jesus knew His mission of making God's name known had been fulfilled. His mission was to make God's name known to all of the world through His few devoted followers. After His prayer in the garden it would now be up to the cross, the resurrection, and the resurrection appearances to fulfill the broader mission. Thus it was up to His disciples. It was up to those eleven disciples to carry forth the name of God to the rest of the world through their association with the life and message of Jesus. But Jesus knew that in order for this to happen, the disciples would need to be protected from all evil, all corruption, and persecution which they would face. Therefore Jesus prayed, "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Jesus knew what His disciples would face after He was gone. He knew the persecution as well as the temptations would be real for them. This is why His prayer for protection, Jesus affirmed that God's presence, the Holy Spirit or Advocate, would always be within the lives of those who lived in the name of God. Thus Jesus not only made God's name known to His disciples but promised that it would live on throughout the ages with those who followed in name of God. He reemphasized this prior to His Ascension when He gave His disciples their final commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." The disciples would not be on their own God would be always with them.

In this commission, His prayer, His death, His resurrection found fulfillment and ultimate glory. Now the disciples were given the ultimate authority to go into all the world in order to spread the good news of God's name through the life and message of Jesus. It would be now that His mission was accomplished. He had unveiled the hidden name of God and was no longer hidden in the Temple's "Holy of Holies." He was no longer to be that mystery of mysteries, the unknown who was thought to be full of revenge. The disciples now had the incarnate word of God's love to spread to all of the world and to you and me.

This is all to say that the human form of Jesus was made holy through God's living presence within Him. He was sanctified by revealing and living what the name of God really is. This sanctification revealed the true nature and name of God that He is a God of love. He extended His nature and name into the life of mankind by unleashing His name to the disciples. Therefore God's name invokes love and forgiveness.

Those who choose to follow Jesus and those who choose to live the name of God will also be sanctified or be called holy in God's kingdom. They will be and are the living presence of God's name in the world. It is important to note that the good news of Jesus' life and message will be experienced by others not by the words we may say, not by the name we call ourselves, but by the life we live. To take the name of being Christian or to be known as Christian means that our lives, must be seen as living the message of love as lived by Jesus. We cannot pretend, proclaim, or wish to be Christian without living the life in Christ. To do otherwise is just sheer hypocrisy and which is so prevalent in today's society. We cannot lay claim to the name of God without first living the life as revealed to us through Jesus.

What's in a name? It is the life which is lived that bears the name, just as the name of Jesus was known as bearing the life of God's love and forgiveness. We have taken on the name of Christian through our baptism and confirmation but that name will only find its true identity by how others view our lives. Our lives have the power of God's presence in order to give meaning to the name Christian. The world will know the name of God and the meaning of being Christian through us. We have been commissioned to be that bearer of good news of love and forgiveness. Whether we like it or not, how and what we live determines our real truth behind our name. That's the reality.

Anthem: ["Here Am I Lord"](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Our Father, the giver of every good and perfect gift, today we celebrate another step in getting beyond the devastation of the pandemic. Although the vaccinations are helping us reach some semblance of normalcy, let us always be cognoscente of its dangers and that it will continue to be with us. May we always act out of love for others no matter the sacrifice which may be demanded. This is the life to which we are called and in which we find joy and meaning. Continually be our comforting and encouraging companion during times in which we may be tested and tempted to go astray from the love which you have taught us.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family,, Della , Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Pastor Jack,
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Lead on O King Eternal"](#)

Announcements

In person worship services have begun, 9:30am. Services will be outdoors unless inclement weather conditions which then we will be indoors. Face masks and social distancing both indoors and outdoors will be required. An email will be sent late Saturday afternoons stating whether indoors or outdoors.

*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291