

EASTER 6 / EXAUDI SUNDAY

05/13/18

Mount Calvary, West View

ACTS 1:12-26, I JOHN 5:9-15. JOHN 17: 11b-19

Theme: IN the World, but NOT OF It

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is from the Gospel of St. John, the 17th Chapter:

I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

He Is Risen! HIRIH;TIMCT!i

Exaudi Sunday simply means that this is the Sunday after Ascension Day. This is a special Sunday for we are moving from the Blessed Eastertide into the new Season of Pentecost and Trinity.

This text that we have before us today is a real blessing for us Christians to have. It is a text which we see the True Human Nature of Christ caring for His Disciples. This should remind us that as human beings we should be very aware of our fellow humanø plight, and desire to help in every bodily need. With these Words we are asked to recall the Words that are written in the Book of Hebrews, which constantly remind us that we have mediator on our behalf; An Intercessor Who has secured us to God with a New

Covenant ó a Covenant of Blood, His Blood, which Speaks better things than that of Abel's blood; for Abel's blood had cried out for vengeance against the one who spilled his blood. This Blood of the New covenant is The Redeemer's Blood, and His blood continuously cries out for mercy upon those who forced His blood to be shed. Totally different that our blood when spilt. Indeed, it is a great comfort we have to have a Mediator and Redeemer that removes from us our former sins and declares us righteous. This is the assurance that every Christian has in their Advocate, God Himself, Jesus Christ, Who, intercedes for us before the Righteous and Just Father - taking the wrath of the Father upon Himself, that you and I are spared from what we deserve.

This is the declaration of every confirmand: We Trust in God the Father Who has created us, God the Son Who has also Redeemed us from our sins, and God the Holy Spirit Who Sanctifies us in this one True faith in this Triune God. To understand Jesus as our Mediator, we tend to look straight to the cross for the evidence of all that I have just expressed to you about our Mediator before the Father - and rightly so, for there at the cross is the greatest and most visible expression of Christ's love for us, the proof of His mediation of taking The Father's wrath aimed for us upon Himself. Yet, in our text today, we see the Great Mediator again, interceding for us before God the Father; expressing the words that we sometimes forget to say.

I say, òforget to say,ö yet our sinful old man convinces us to keep from talking to God, either because of fear, or because of the worries and cares of this world make us not

remember we have an advocate to aid us in our times of want and need. Because of this struggle we have with the devil, the world, and our fleshly old man, Jesus prays to the Father in Heaven for our Protection. Would you say that this is something that you normally do, pray to God for constant and complete protection? I have heard of a person who makes it a point to pray each and every time he gets behind the wheel of his car, that the Lord would protect him as he drives along the road to his destination. This is a wonderful practice that we should encourage in each and every one of us that do not already do so; to continuously remind us of the protection that God does give especially when we ask in His Name. Yet, along with this, we should also give thanksgiving to God when we reach our destination safely. We should also pray that God would protect us as we do our work around heavy equipment, or even a hot pot of coffee (for those less strenuous jobs). We should even pray for protection as we work around the house. (Something like half of all accidents happen within 2 miles of the house, so maybe it is time to move!) Even while we play in our own back yard, we should pray for God's continual protection that we would not get hurt nor that we would hurt others. The term I believe we are driving at is "Pray Continuously." That is a lot of prayers for protection, and many of us do pray for such protection, but I fear that for most of us, physical protection is all that we pray for.

Do we wake up in the morning and thank God for the protection from an evil death, and that throughout the day, we ask of our Father that He would protect us from every evil

that we may face - especially the evil of false and pernicious doctrine that the world, the devil, and even our very own flesh would use against our faith, so that we would then remove ourselves from Christ? This is why Jesus intercedes on behalf of the disciples: they will be assaulted by the arrows of the evil one; they will be beaten and thrown into prison by evil men; they will be called to make an account of their faith, and either recant or be killed, simply because they speak about the True God, and the Salvation found in the Name and Person of Jesus Christ our Lord. They are most certainly going to need protection.

However, they are not the only ones. Jesus also prays this prayer on *your* behalf as well. Even though you do not know what to pray for, Jesus does, and constantly prays on your behalf that you would be protected and kept safe by His Name. That you also would stand firm on His Word alone, because just as they persecuted Him and the disciples, so does the devil, the world, and your very own flesh persecute you. This power of protection provided by God the Father and the Spirit of Knowledge and Truth ó we pray that all the faithful will remain in the Name of Jesus Christ ó The Redeemer and Mediator and keep themselves from the false doctrines that Judas was assaulted with and believed, which his faith in the deception and misbelief alone doomed him to destruction.

After praying for our protection, Jesus continues His High Priestly Prayer for us, His disciples, by reminding us that we are still in the world, not to be removed from it until Christ comes again. We are in the world, but not OF it. The world goes about denying

and forgetting God. You, with the help of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, your baptism and the proper reception of Body and blood, the great and wonderful Word and Sacrament Ministry, never forget God, and strive to make sure your fellow man does not forget Him either.

The work on this earth is hard. The devil and his legions will continue to assault the believers of Christ. We will be subject to ridicule for our faith, and our bodies will waste away ó some faster than others. Yet, The Father has continued to leave us here to fulfill the opportunities that He has planned for us since the creation of the world. This also means that suicide is not an option. We are not ever called by the Triune God to take our life to leave this world in order to enter into heaven. This prayer of Christ is the message we need to proclaim to our young people, to help them realize that they also have an advocate before God Who does recognize how difficult this world can be and that He cares for all of us in every situation. He cares so much that He sent His Son into the World, to speak His Words to us, so that we can have true heavenly joy within ourselves, and not center our lives on how hard everything is.

When things get so unbearable that you just can't stand it anymore, the Words of Jesus are a constant source of hope and comfort, to help you, to MAKE you, continue to grin and bear it - to totally commit your ways to the Lord, to trust in Him, so He SHALL bring to pass in your life, the comfort and the peace of His presence. The waters of your baptism help you to commit your troubles to Christ because you have been washed clean

from the former sins, and the Words at your proper baptism make you to understand everything that He has commanded you, and Lo He will be with you always, even to the end of the earth.

If this still has not calmed your troubled soul, there is offered from your great mediator, the very Body and Blood of your dear Savior in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine, for you as a Christian to eat and to drink, for the remission of ALL your sins. And finally, your soul can be comforted in this world by the great power of confession and absolution which we give to each other as Christ has given unto us, as we continuously pray in the Lord's Prayer. With Christ praying on your behalf for your protection and your Joy to increase in the Means of Grace that He has given to you, it is then that you realize that the Holy Spirit has indeed Sanctified your life and that the Resurrection of Your Lord Jesus Christ is your promise of Salvation.

He is Risen! HIRIH;TIMCT... The Mediator has spoken! Sins have been removed! May this message be continuously on our lips as we stand firm, boldly and confidently telling others about their mediator, in spite of all the arrows that the evil one may shoot at us, making diligent use of the means of grace that has been given to us, for we may still be in the world, but not of it. In our Ascended Savior's Name, we Pray.

AMEN.

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL
UNDERSTANDING KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of
judgment**

ⁱ Congregation response: He Is Risen Indeed, Halleluiah!; This Is Most Certainly True!