

GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

SERMON

SERMON SONG

“*Son of God, Eternal Savior*”

#655

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting God's promise of healing and new life, we pray for the renewal and wellbeing of the church, the world, and all of creation

A brief silence.

By your Spirit, O God, make your people one as you and your Son are one. Breathe your love into your people and empower us to share your love with one another so that others may see your love through us. Extend the gifts we have been given by your Spirit to all people, especially those experiencing division or questioning your love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out over the earth the water of life as a gift. Wash the wounds of creation and restore all living things to wholeness. Protect ocean habitats, river ecosystems, and wetlands. Bring restoration and healing to lands devastated by floods, fires, tornados, and storms. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with holy rage, O God. Once more we fall before you, broken, angry, hurting, and weeping for yet more innocent lives lost to gun violence. Wrap your loving arms around those who weep these days: those who weep for the children and teachers of Robb Elementary; those who weep for the shoppers in Buffalo; those whose wounds have been opened anew by yet another senseless act of violence. Move our elected officials to use their power to ensure that our schools, churches, shopping centers / stores, movie theatres, and homes are as free from gun violence as possible. Give us the words and the will to have the difficult conversations and to fight the good fight of peace and justice. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are our refuge and strength, O God. Give comfort and hope to those for whom death draws near (*silence*)... and those who grieve the death of loved ones (*silence*)... Bring healing and renewed strength to those who have been hospitalized, undergone surgery, or are struggling with chronic illness / disease: (*especially Carol, Kevin, Ted, Joanne, Sue, Rene, Laurie, Bev, Cheri, Loretta, Ruth, Gary, Phil, Joan, Janet, Renee, Rhonda, and those we name now—aloud or in the silence of our hearts*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this Memorial Day weekend, keep in our minds those who have died in war, both military and civilians. May we honor them by seeking peaceful solutions to the conflicts that arise among nations and peoples. Please protect and care for all those who are fighting to defend their country in Ukraine... those whose lives have been uprooted by Putin's unjust war. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let your word fill our hearts and homes. Bless all who teach us the faith: parents and grandparents, pastors and deacons, Sunday School and