

ILCW Year-C Scripture Lessons for the ✨ 7th Sunday of Easter
First Lesson

Acts 16:6-10 NIV Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Epistle

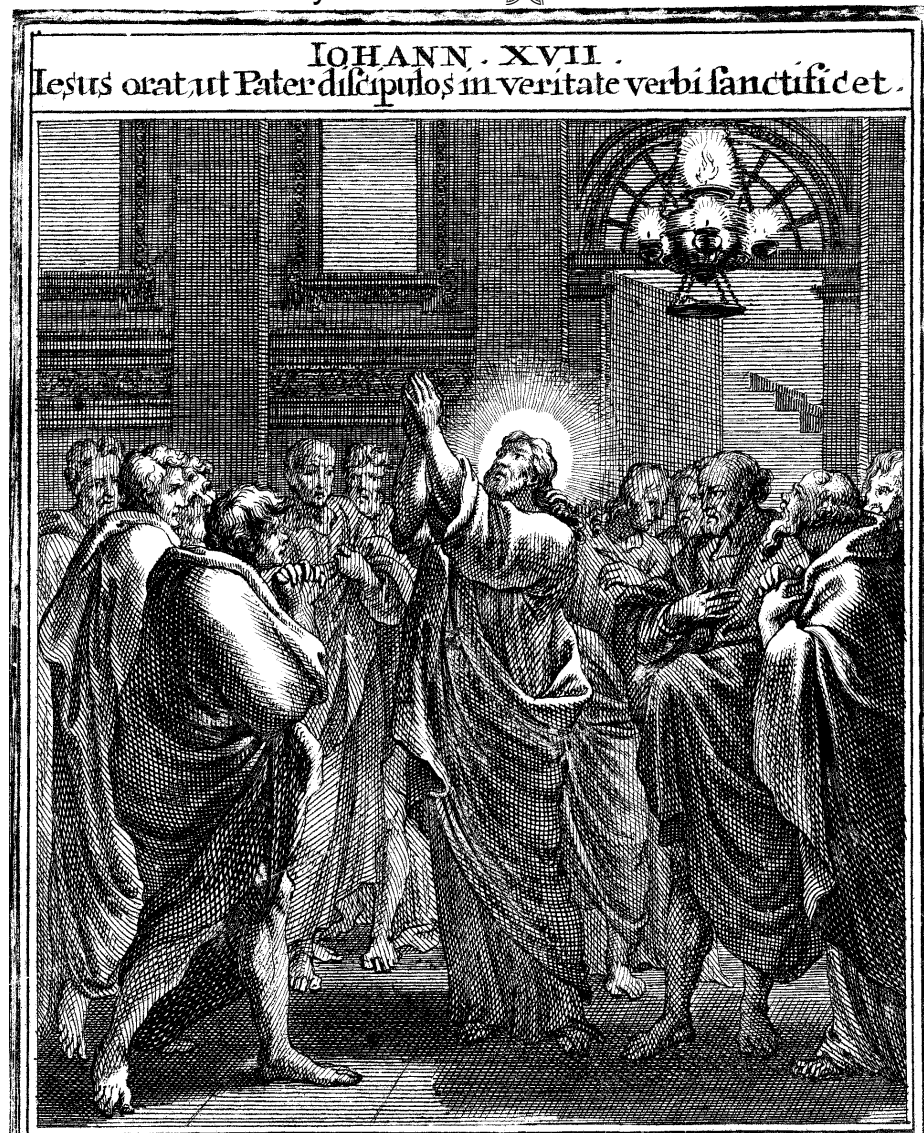
Revelation 22:12-20 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. 16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Gospel

John 17:20-26 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you 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. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."



Our Savior Lutheran Church ▲ Lakeland, FL, USA
Easter 7(C) *Exaudi* Sunday ✨ "Promised Comforter"
May 12th 2013 ✨ 9:30 am



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – John 16:23-30 (or John 17)
*Jesus prays for Himself, the world, and His disciples,
who He instructs how to pray.*

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/DIA/detail.cfm?ID=3098>

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

6920 N. Socrum Loop Road—in north Lakeland, Florida

Mailing address: P. O. Box 91905—Lakeland, FL 33804-1905

PHONE (863) 859-3400— www.osllakeland.com

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

May 12, 2013 Easter 7C *Exaudi* = "Promised H.S."

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, our pastor would be glad to share information about our church with you and discuss membership at your convenience. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert.)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see **page 5**. Please leave the service folder insert with an usher or on table after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	212;1-4 (7v)	A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Hymn of Day	473 (5v)	The Church's One Foundation
Sermon	John 17:20-26	"Jesus Prays for His Church = US!"
Offering Hymn	416 (4v)	O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways
Sending Hymn	267 (3v)	If God Had Not Been On Our Side
Closing Hymn	216 (3v)	On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

PROPERs for EASTER7=(LAST) SUNDAY OF EASTER 12 MAY

INTROIT Hear, O God, when I cry with my voice. Alleluia! When You said, "Seek ye My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." Do not hide Your face from me. from Psalm 27

COLLECT Almighty, everlasting God, grant us always to have a devout will toward You, and the desire to serve Your majesty with a pure heart; through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **C: ♪ A- -men.**

GRADUAL C: Alleluia! Alleluia! God reigns over the heathen; God sits on the throne of His Holiness. Alleluia! I will not leave you comfortless. I go, and I will come again to you, and your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of bulletin)*

1st Lesson: **Acts 16:6-10** Paul' a vision of a man of Macedonia: "Come!"

Epistle: **Revelation 22:12-20** (Behold!) Jesus is coming back for us ...soon.

Gospel: **John 17:20-26** Jesus Prays for His Church. *(Sermon text)*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Madeline Beck	Patty & Buster Brewbaker
Richard Birkenmeier	(past member) Dan Elwing
Jonathan Jumper (grandson of Elaine Jones)	Jeanette Kubly
Tyler Kirby (nephew of Andrea Sawyer)	Mariah Sawyer
George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt)	Ann Wentz

Volunteers	This week	Next week
Greeter	Ethel (& Steve) Wendt	Jim & Elma Hendricks
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	Ann & MaryLou	(New Member Welcome)

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	31	40
Communion Attendance	--	30
Sunday Bible Class	--	8
Thursday Bible Class	10	9
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD total) \$

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 5/12	8:30 am	Bible Study
Today is:	9:30 am	Divine Worship at Our Savior Church
MOTHERS' DAY!	10:30 ff...	Fellowship time: <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>
Tuesday, 5/14	6:00 pm	Catechism Class with Prescott
Thursday, 5/16	6:30 pm	Bible Study at Madeline Beck's
Saturday, 5/18	10:30 am	Ladies Meeting&11am Longhorn Lunch
	1:30 pm	Catechism Class with Sawyers
Sunday, 5/19	8:30 am	Bible Study
	9:30 am	Worship (with Holy Communion)
	11:00 ff...	Welcome Luncheon-New Member Family

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807, John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Schedule Notes - Month of May

May 10-11: (Friday night & Saturday) – **LYA Sleepover & Wet'N'Wild outing.** Thank you **Bob & Nancy Durn** for providing **transportation to and from this.**

May 19th: (Sunday) **New Member Family Welcome Lunch** after church

Have a Blessed week all, & ☺ Happy Mothers' Day! ☺

EASTER-7C John 17:20-26 "JESUS PRAYS FOR (HIS) CHURCH" 05.12.13 OS

INTRODUCTION: One of the great mysteries of the world is the survival of the church for nearly **2000 years**. It's pretty amazing when you stop and think about it. The church began in Jerusalem with a little group of **120** believers, ordinary people like you and me. It grew to over **3000** on the day of Pentecost. Within a few decades it covered the **whole Mediterranean world**. The church has survived the rise and fall of kingdoms, the tyranny of emperors, the rise of heresies and false religions. It has survived persecutions, the rise of Islam, communism, and every attempt to wipe it out. The church survived false teachers, false teachings, the strain of reformation, external division, schisms, sects, denominationalism, two thousand years of mismanagement. Any corporation or country or culture would have long gone under. But the church keeps going, like the Energizer bunny in those tv commercials, the church's batteries never seem to run down. It's both miracle and mystery, a hidden work of God.

This morning, **You are in on the secret**. What keeps the church going, often in spite of itself? Answer: **Jesus PRAYS for His Church**. *"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message."* Jesus prays **for US**. Perhaps it goes without saying, but it really needs to be said anyway. **Jesus prays for His Church**, the Groom prays for His Bride, whom He loves and for whom He laid down His life. The same Jesus, who **ascended** to majestic glory at the Right Hand of the Father does not forget His church but intercedes for her, and that prayer is sure to be heard.

Jesus prays for His Church, and **He prays for you who believe**. Jesus prays for His Church, and that prayer preserves the Church in the unity of the Spirit. Jesus prays for His Church, that we would be one as He and the Father are one, that we might share in His glory, and in the love of the Father.

So, like the dandelions in your Spring lawn or the Energizer bunny that keeps on ticking and ticking, the Church seems to march on, popping up here and there all over the world. Oh, it's **not** always **uniformly strong and vibrant everywhere** at the same time. It's like that field with the four kinds of soil in the parable that Jesus told. Some parts of the Church are simply unproductive hard pavement, where the Word gets barely a hearing. Some are like the shallow soil that spring up with rapid growth that wilts in the heat of persecution. Some are like the weedy soil where riches, comforts, and cares choke out the Word before it ever becomes fruitful. And some parts are like that deeply plowed soil that receives the Word and in which the Word bears generous fruit.

Luther recognized this. He called the Gospel a "**local rain**" that showers for a while in one place and then moves on to another. Churches that once were busting full with people now stand nearly empty, while churches pop up somewhere else. We see it in our own area here in Florida. Churches that were once the great mother churches are less populated; while areas that barely had a presence of the Church are now thriving. The greatest resurgence of Christianity is found not in America but in Africa, and in India and Asia. And through it all, there remains **one Lord Jesus Christ, one faith, one Baptism, one** holy Christian and apostolic Church.

Jesus promised that He would build His Church on the confession that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that the **gates of Hades would not prevail against** that Church. That doesn't mean every congregation is bullet-proof. Certainly not. Sometimes growth in one part of the Church entails loss in another part. The Church is a living, dynamic body, not a static institution or corporation.

The Church is also not our doing. We **make it up** but we didn't **make it**. The Church is not of our doing, nor is the **Church's unity our doing**, nor her glory our doing. These are the Lord's doing. He purchased and won her with His blood shed on the cross. He washes her with the water and Word of Holy Baptism. He clothes her in the seamless robe of His own righteousness. And He prays for her. Jesus prays for His Church, as a loving husband prays for his wife. He is one flesh with her. He prays for her, and in praying for the Church, Christ also prays for you. This part of Jesus' high priestly prayer, you get to take personally.

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." He prays, first of all, for our union with Him in the Father, that just as He and the Father are one, united in the Godhead, so we would be one with Him and the Father, that we would dwell in God and God in us, that we would live in the love God has for us in sending His Son to save us.

Notice that it is not simply for ourselves. It is *"so that the world may believe that you sent Me."* The Church exists **for the benefit and blessing of the world**, just as OT Israel existed **not for** the benefit and blessing of itself, as though it were some kind of holiness club that had exclusive dining room privileges with the Lord, but Israel and its NT counterpart the Church exist **"for the life of the world."** ...That the world may know and believe that the Father sent the Son to save the world by His death.

So, **Where do churches go wrong?!**

The **First** place where churches go wrong is this: They become **institutionalized, self-protective**, worried about themselves instead of others, concerned with their own affairs and not with the **unbaptized, unbelieving world**. We cease to see a world reconciled to God in the Blood of Jesus, and instead look at the world in terms of **"us"** and **"them,"** drawing a line and building a wall instead of breaking through walls. Jesus' desire and His prayer is that our unity with Him and the Father would clearly show God's love to the world in Christ so that the world would be drawn into the dragnet of salvation. Jesus said, *"Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

Second, after union with Him, Jesus **wants you to share in His glory**. *"The glory that You have given Me I have given to them."* This past Thursday, we celebrated Jesus' ascension, the withdrawal of His visible (but not actual!) presence. In ascending to the highest majesty of rule and dominion at the right hand of the Father, Jesus has glorified our humanity. Think about it. Jesus embodies all of humanity in His human body as the second Adam, the new head of humanity. In Christ, all died. In Christ, all are raised from the dead (which is

why all rise in the resurrection). In Christ, all are glorified, humanity is glorified at the right hand of the Father.

And it is **this glory that He shares with you** as one of His baptized believers. You are glorified in Him and you possess a share of that glory, the “down payment” of which is the Holy Spirit which was given you in your Baptism. Things may appear anything but glorious at the moment. The Church may not appear terribly glorious in this world. And let’s face it, much of the what passes as glorious in the church is man-made glitter, like so much make-up and a hair dye job. It is superficial glitter, as man applies it. But God looks to and sees the inner beauty, the radiance of Christ and His perfection shining through His bride. The Church doesn’t need make up, as much as she thinks she does. She is beautiful to Christ as she is, clothed with Him, her spots and wrinkles and blemishes covered by Him.

Third, Jesus’ desire and prayer is that we be with Him and the Father. “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” It’s **not enough** that we believe in Him while still **not** seeing; Jesus’ desire is that we see what we now believe. Jesus **wants the glory that is now ours by faith** in Him would **one day be seen in all its glory.**

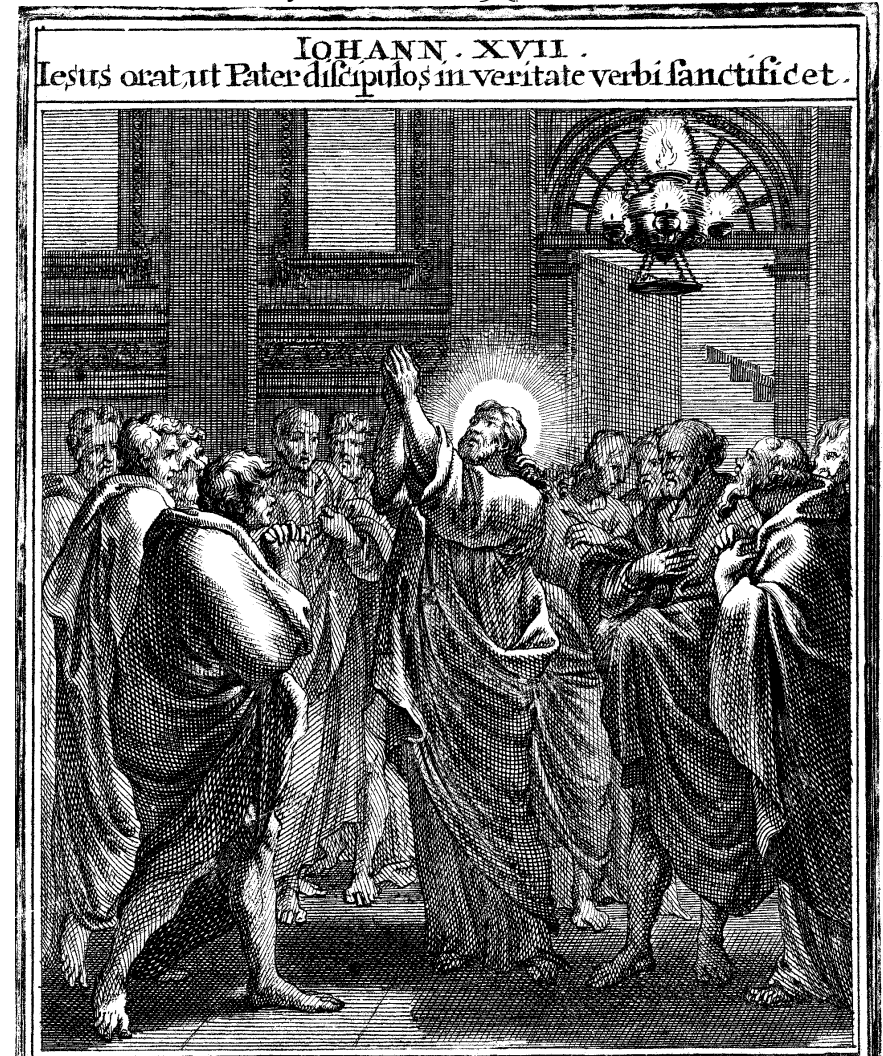
CONCLUSION Only then will what goes on in this life make any sense or achieve its full clarity. There are certain things that can only be **seen under special light, UV light**, for example. Similarly the sufferings and hardships of this world as we now see it will only make sense when held under the lamp who is Jesus Christ. Now as we speak, the **smudges of sin cover things.** We can see only dimly; sometimes **not at all.** But on the day of Jesus’ appearing, when He shows Himself for who He is and for all the world to see, **you too will see and understand and marvel at what God has done.**

Until then, the Spirit and the Church say, “**Come,**” inviting all to drink freely of that **Spirit-filled water of life** that flows from the Son and the Father. Come and be refreshed. Come and be renewed by Him who makes all things new.

Jesus prays for the Church; **He prays for you.** And you are held safely in that prayer forever. In Jesus’ Name. **Amen. SDG**

(And now,) *The **peace** of God which passes **all** understanding, keep your hearts and minds in faith in Christ Jesus, Amen.*

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