

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15



# Daily 5 With Luther

19

GOOD SHEPHERD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, USA

*Serving all people with the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ*

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October 15

**"And this is eternal Life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."**

**John 17:3.**

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In these words Christ shows what eternal life is. God says: Eternal life is this – and My disciples shall receive it in this way – **"that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."**

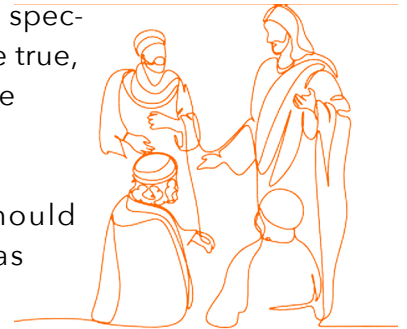
Let him who would walk safely flee and avoid all those things which natural reason and human thoughts are accustomed to advance concerning this article. There is no counsel and wisdom that can avail against the seducing delusions of the devil. Nothing will do but our holding onto a steady faith in the plain and simple words of the Scriptures.

Again, do not at all rely on our own thoughts and speculations, but say this: Whatever Christ has said must be true, although it may be beyond my comprehension, or the understanding of any other mortal. We ask foolishly: how it can be true.

It is utterly impossible that human reason should grasp even the least article of faith. No mortal has any right thought or sure knowledge of God whatsoever, without the Word of God.

The farther and more deeply human reason goes in the investigation of God, His works, His will, and His counsel, the farther Reason wanders from the knowledge of those very matters. This happens until Reason comes at last to know nothing and to believe nothing of God at all. Not even believing He exists.

Here you see the words are plain: Christ gives to all who believe eternal life; but no one can give eternal life except God only; wherefore it must incontrovertibly follow that Christ is truly and naturally God.



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

*Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David LORD  
did call the God incarnate, Man divine: And crown  
Him LORD of all!*

October 16

**"I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which You  
have given Me to do."**

**John 17:4.**

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Christ, our Lord, during His life upon earth glorified the Father by preaching and highly extolling His praise and glory. There are testimonies to be found everywhere throughout the Gospels where Jesus continually teaches and glories that He was sent of His Father. Jesus Christ refers to the Father and ascribes to the Father the whole of His life and all that He possesses or has power to do.

Then Christ Jesus says; **"I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."** If Your glory, praise, and honor are to be proclaimed abroad, and declared by Me, then I must of necessity be buried in darkness and disgrace.

For all the time He was doing the will of the Father by preaching and working signs and miracles. Christ was engaged in those works that were approved of God and well-pleasing to Him. This wicked world was bitterly enraged against Christ, and could not endure Him. And in this faithful way, He finished the work which was given Him to do.

– And now, as Christ our Head prays, so ought we also who cling to Him pray. Pray that He would glorify Himself in us. For as it was with Him on earth, so also it is with us. For His sake (when we glorify Him and exalt His name by our life and doctrine), we willingly submit to be loaded with disgrace. Yes, even to be condemned to and punished with death!

We want above all that Christ retain His honor and dignity. Let us continually defend His Word against vile defamation and blasphemous accusers. He must rescue us, and quite reverse the darkest scene. He shall expose the world as unjust and condemned to the deep-

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1  
est sham; He shall reveal His family of faith is translated into glory and eternal life.

*The sixth, when victory was won, "Tis finished!" for Your work was done. Grant LORD, that onward pressing we may the work You shall dispose fulfill with Your own blessing.*

**October 17**

***"And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."***

***John 17:5.***

**\* \* \***

Here again is a great and expressive text concerning the divinity of Christ. Here Jesus Christ expressly says, that He had honor and had been glorious with the Father *before* the foundation of the world.

Before the world was nothing could have existence but God only, for there is no half-way thing between the world and God, between the creature and the Creator.

Jesus prays: Dear Father, glorify Me, I am Your only Son from everlasting. I am of the same divinity, essence, and glory with Yourself."

Christ seeks to show how He wishes to be glorified, that is, manifested, preached, and believed on. Namely that is this: He is the One who had His glory from all eternity, He is truly God and naturally the eternal Son of the Father.

But heretics will wickedly pervert this passage. Such liars claim: "It is true that Christ had His glory before the world was; but it does not from that follow that He is therefore to be considered eternally and naturally God."

The self-deceivers go on in their lies, "He might have been some creature, higher and exalted above all the rest of the creatures, before the world was, and so, kind of a middle-thing in the world between God and all other creatures."

But we must steadfastly hold to the revealed Word of the living God. Let us believe and rest on the words of Jesus! We must not allow others to seize them from us. And we must not allow any to maliciously

Thus says the Lord, “In quietness and confidence is your strength”—Isaiah 30:15

pervert the very Words of the living God. Let us expose the lying dreams that frame anything mid-way between God and the world!

This is the most certain of all certainties: Christ, since He had His glory before the world was, *cannot* be a creature. For the term “world” includes all created things, everything that was not from eternity but had a beginning.

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!*

October 18

I have manifested Your name to those whom  
You gave Me out of the world.

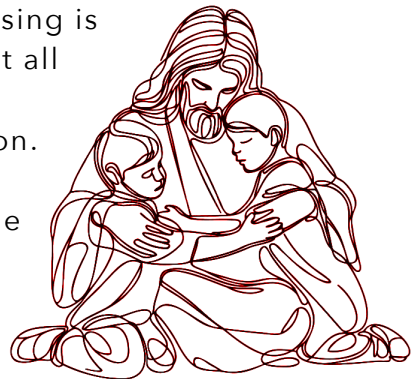
John 17:6a.

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“Manifesting Your name” means nothing else but Jesus Christ delighting to glorify the Father. Thus what He preached concerning the Father He has clearly revealed to our hearts. And what has Jesus revealed about God?

Christ has revealed namely, *firstly*, that God is a kind and merciful Father; *secondly*, God the Father receives us into His undeserved love; *thirdly*, that God delights in pardoning all our sins; *fourthly*, the Father has mightily delivered us from death and the devil; *fifthly*, our Father is faithfully defending us; *sixthly*, the Father continues to bring us help in all perils and straits; and *lastly*, Christ brings this all full circle.

For all of this awesome and lavish blessing is without any regard to our works or merits. It all originates with only His fatherly goodness through Jesus Christ His eternal beloved Son. Whoever praises, glories in, preaches, believes and confesses these things, makes the Father glorious, and magnifies, and manifests His name. This is done so that all may come to know what God is to be called, how God is to be looked upon, and how God is to be worshiped.



*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

**"Those whom You gave Me out of the world."** What does this mean? No one makes plain the name of the Father, or permits Him to be preached, except God the Father Himself sees to it that it happens.

Therefore no one can understand or apprehend that expression except those who are given by the Father to Christ Jesus. Others are offended at it, and even dispute it. These mumblers are filled with such wickedness that they even persecute and blaspheme the holy Name of the Father and His eternal Son.

For God's Word stands directly against all their wisdom and sanctity. God's holy mercies are revealed against all those things upon which the arrogant pride themselves.

But look on those who are called and have come to partake in the Gospel, the Word of Christ! They embrace it seriously, that is, they are inwardly persuaded by it, and believe Him. They trust Him. They are certainly among those who were given to Christ by the Father out of the world. And those who were given to Him, Christ will safely guard. God Himself will take care that not one of them shall perish.



*Thou art the Way; to Thee alone from sin and death we flee;  
And he who would the Father seek, must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.*

**October 19**

**Yours they were, and You gave them to Me; and  
they have kept Your Word.**

**John 17:6b**

\* \* \*

**"Yours they were"** Christ says that He who hears the Word and whom the Holy Spirit opens his heart and ears to receive and believe the revelation concerning the Father is transformed. Christ assures His followers: *"That soul no longer belongs to the world, but is Mine. And it is certain that they are Mine, and that I AM their Lord, Master, and Savior. This also is certain, that they are*

*Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15*

*also Yours, nor are they Yours now only, but were Yours also from the beginning. They came now from You to Me, sent by You, Father, to continue to be blessed by Me."*

Know this: there is not in all the world a greater consolation than this which Christ here opens up and puts into your hands! You are God's own! You are God's dearly beloved child. His Word is your pleasure, and your heart is sweetly devoted to Him.

Christ is sweet to you; He is your Friend. He comforts you. God the Father Himself likewise comforts you. Therefore you do not have an angry God, but one full of fatherly love and gracious loving-kindness!

***"You gave them to Me; and they have kept Your Word."*** What does this mean? Here the Holy Spirit binds both truths in one bond. Believers are both the children of the Father and the portion of Christ.

"They are My disciples (says Christ truly), and yet they were Yours from all eternity." And how are they known to be so? Because "they have kept *Your Word*."

Think: Why does Jesus Christ not say, rather, they have kept ***My Word***? The answer He passionately and plainly proclaims: Christ wishes to make known that the Father and Himself are One. He seeks to draw Himself wholly to the Father. He speaks as though He would say, "In that they are My disciples and hear Me, they hear and keep not My Word but Yours."

From this we are absolutely certain that no words proceed out of the mouth of Christ but those of our heavenly Father. And those words from the Father and Son are deigned to bless and preserve us as His own family.

*Divine Instructor, gracious Lord! Be Thou forever near;  
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word. And view my Savior there.*

October 20

**"Now they have come to know that  
everything You have given Me is from You"**

**John 17:7.**

\* \* \*

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

All these things are intended only to lift up our fearful and heavy conscience. Christ Jesus desires to lighten and gladden my heart. He does not want me to fear to draw near to God.

Since I have the Word, God's own words and promises, since I believe it, I am keeping it. Therefore I know that all things whatsoever I have to do, perform, and give, are from God Himself.

God has drawn me to trust in His eternal Son Jesus. All who are united to Christ by faith, hear Him. We are to know with certainty that God the Father *is* our Father. The Father of our Lord and Savior is our merciful and encouraging God.

Jesus says that I receive all. **All is a gift.** The gifts I receive are freely bestowed by God Himself. I do not doubt that I, and the blessings surrounding me, have been chosen by God.

These are not merely material goodnesses, but the very souls created and blessed. As Christ points out, "For they could neither hear Me nor keep My Word, unless You Yourself had first given it to them. Thus and then You had chosen them for this: to believe and bear fruit."

***"And this is the fruit of the Word where it is received and kept."*** This means that through the benefits of the Word of the living God, souls shall attain to the knowledge of all the merciful kindnesses and heavenly blessings. Such matters are freely revealed in God's Word. They are given from the Father by Christ to His great and growing family of faith.

This truth is that on which we may rest with a happy and assured mind. And that is what no human reason or wisdom, no, nor even the doctrine of the law and its rules can ever effect. Instead, this is that true and blessed light and glory by which we sinful humans behold great and holy God, with open face, without any veil and covering. Read what God revealed through His apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 3!





Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

Yes, scoffers blame steadfast and faithful Christians for making a commotion. For we preach the truth against them. But the false ones creating discord are those twisted deceivers. They really are the ones who make all the trouble.

For Christ is the Aaron and High Priest of believers. We likewise acknowledge Christ is the One who rules alone in our hearts and lives. And Christ does this through His Words and promises

*Who shall the Lord's elect condemn? 'Tis God who justifies their souls; And mercy, like a mighty stream, o'er all their sins divinely rolls. He lives! He lives! and sits above, forever interceding there: Who shall divide us from His love, Or what should tempt us to despair?*

October 21

... For I gave them the words You gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from You. They believed that You sent Me.

John 17:8

\* \* \*

In these words lies the whole substance of the matter. Behold how plainly Christ speaks of the external Word. This is the Word is pronounced by the corporal voice through Christ, and received by the ear. No one may count this insignificant. No one may consider it as unnecessary.

For here you hear about no other means and no other way than the Word. This is the Word which Christ has spread abroad by His living preaching. And Christ declares that the Word's power is such, and the Word produces such fruits.

By the Word we know the mind and will of the Father. In the Word are all things that are necessary to our salvation. And Christ says, "they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me."

The **effect of the Word of God**, where it is by faith seriously received, is this: that all who hear it shall know that Christ came forth from, and was sent out by, the Father.

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

The effect of the Word of God by faith is that everything Christ Jesus says are the words and will of the Father.

The effect of the Word of God by faith is that all that Jesus Christ does and works are the works and words, the creations and commands of the Father.

The effect of the Word of God is that all these things together by faith are for our help. This is the knowledge in which eternal life stands. This knowledge is entirely hidden by self-rebelling, by sin and deceit. So the world, and no human reason, no human wisdom can attain this knowledge. This heavenly gift is not attainable by any other means or in any other way or manner than through the Word of Christ.

But we must look to the Word again and again, that we hold the Word resolute. Unyielding and firm we shall hold to the Word. Let us reject all other thoughts whatever. Instead we seek to set aside ourselves so that we may hear and know nothing else concerning God but that which Christ speaks. It is the Word that must remain.

*Father of mercies, in Thy Word What endless glory shines!  
Forever be Thy name adored For these celestial lines.*

**October 22**

**I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world.**

**John 17:9a**

**\* \* \***

Here the Lord Jesus Christ pours forth His prayer indeed. Here Christ reveals why He labors so much – that it is *for* His Christians. Christ now commends them to the Father.

He speaks of us Christians as souls by whom or through whom He is to be glorified. He asks His eternal Father to protect them in the world, together with those who would follow after them.

What confident faith! What sure certainty we Christians have! We are the ones for whom Christ prayed! We will be defended against all

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

rage and fury of the devil, and against all sins and temptations of every kind.

And here we hear again with delight who it is for whom He prays: that is, for those who receive and believe His Word. Jesus Christ prays for those He finds and who follow after Him with all their heart.

But, on the other hand, it is terrible to hear what He then adds. The dreadful words are designed to strike terror into the hordes of deceivers. What are those words Christ thundered? ***"I do not ask on behalf of the world."***

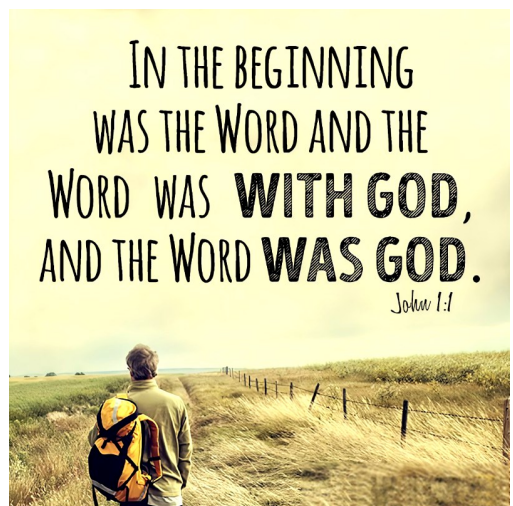
Here then let us look to it with all our soul. Let us carefully and completely examine ourselves. We dare not be found in that rejected multitude that allies itself with hell and all evil against the Holy God. Christ disdained to pray for such wicked ones.

But how does this work? That is the question that arises. How can it work that Christ Jesus the Savior refuses to pray for the world? Did not He Himself in Matthew 5 verse 5 teach us so to pray? even to pray for our enemies?

Think, dear friend: To pray for the world and not to pray for the world are each right and good. There is a difference. Christ prays for the Father's great family of faith, for all Christians and all those who shall be rescued through them. Jesus Christ asks that they remain in the right and correct trust in the Word. Jesus prays that they continue in this living faith, thrive in faith, and never depart from this one true faith.

Christ Jesus also asks His Father that those who are not in this saving faith may be brought to turn from their former life and come to trust in the eternal Son.

**But the state of the world now is darkness.** The world rages so furiously and brazenly against the Gospel! Christ does not pray that such frenzied



"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

madness against the Word might please God! Nor does Christ ask the Father to knowingly and deliberately overlook and permit such a combined attack.

Rather, the eternal Son and our Defender begs His Father to deliberately and fiercely, to carefully and passionately oppose all furious attempts to dishonor and discredit the saving Word. Christ begs His Father in heaven to frustrate all ungodly and immoral schemes of the world.

*Those haughty spirits, LORD, restrain, Who o'er Thy Church  
with might would reign. And always set forth something new,  
Devised to change Thy doctrine true.*

October 23

But for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours

John 17:9b

\* \* \*

Here Christ again restates His previously cited words. Jesus seeks to impress this all the more forcibly on us, to make an imprint on our souls that cannot be erased. Christ says, "I cannot pray for the world, for they are not Thine. Dear Father in heaven, they persecute those whom Thou hast given Me! They pursue Thy family of faith with hatred and bitterness."

"But I do zealously pray for these souls who trust in Me. They are Thine inheritance and Thy possession. These are the souls who are My care and concern."

I have already abundantly shown why Christ expresses Himself in these words, *'them whom You have given Me.'* Do you grasp this truth? The soul that is Christ's is the Father's also. And these are the very ones who are Christ's, as He



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

Himself declares. These are the very ones who receive the Word from Him and keep it.

And this is the most certain evidence of the Father also being merciful and appeased. As I have often repeated, no one embraces the Word, nor will keep the Word, who is not a child of God. No one embraces the Word, nor will keep the Word, who is not given to Christ by the Father.

Therefore our greatest care ought to be that we do not permit the devil to pluck us away from the Word. For against this Word the devil watches with all his thoughts and powers.

Hence, do you desire to hold firmly this faith? Is your whole care and are your prayers directed to that one thing? Then rejoice! For this consolation has been recorded for you and contained in the prayer of Christ for you.

You shall hold it fast. Jesus the Christ prays for you. Therefore all the attempts of the devil shall be frustrated and are truly empty.

*Word of the ever-living God, Will of His glorious Son;  
Without Thee how could earth be trod,  
Or heaven itself be won?*

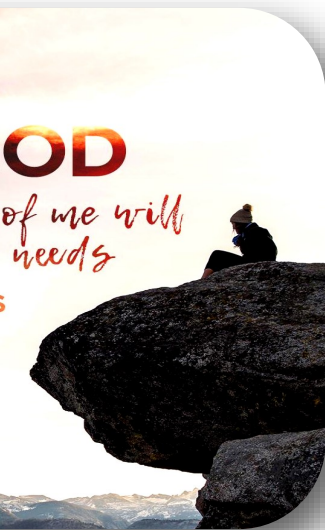
October 24

And all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine.

John 17:10a

\* \* \*

This is indeed speaking plainly and copiously. But it would not have been sufficient had He only said: "**All things that are Mine are Thine.**" For anyone can say that all that we have is God's. But do you see how far greater it is when Christ inverts it and says again: **And all Thine are Mine.** This no creature can say before God. And these words are not only to be understood concerning that which



*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1

the Father gave Him in the world. These words also concern that one divine essence that is common to Himself with the Father.

Note that Christ does not speak with respect to His disciples and Christians only, but He includes at once everything that the Father possesses. What does this mean? It means that Christ reveals He is including His eternal and omnipotent essence, life, truth, righteousness, etc. in His prayer.

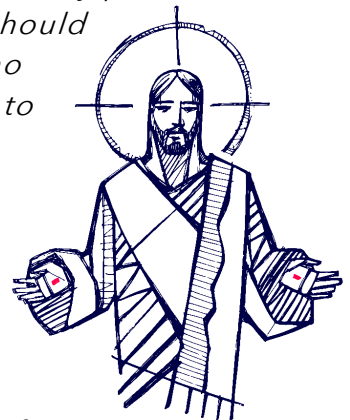
That is, Christ Jesus openly confesses that He is the true God. And His words, ***"All things that are Thine,"*** leave nothing out that is not included. And we are not to forget the reason behind His Word choice.

Christ uses this Word *"all"*. By this word *"all,"* He would address Himself to those who hold fast and firm to His Word.

And therefore, He admonishes us to abide by Him. We are to know and trust that God speaks, works, and bestows all things by Him. All the words and all the works of God are to be sought in Him.

In other words, you can see and hear nothing in Christ without seeing and hearing the Father at the same time.

*Yea, Lord, Thy servants meet Thee, e'en now, in every place  
where Thy true Word hath promised that they should  
see Thy face. Thou yet wilt gladly grant us, who  
gather round Thee here, in faith's strong arms to  
bear Thee, as did that aged seer.*



October 25

And I have been glorified in them.

John 17:10b.

\* \* \*

Do not consider this a small or insignificant comfort that Christ glories before the Father that this work is accomplished in us. Yes, it is a comfort for us that Christ is glorified in us.

Nor is such honor ever to be exchanged by us for the riches and dignity of the whole world. Christ desires to be glorified through the

*Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15*

weakness of our flesh and blood. Christ is praised and magnified by us. This so pleases God the Father!

Surely there are by no means a small number of souls who boast of the Gospel and know how to prattle on a great deal about it. But the type of glorifying spoken of here is not so common. For to glorify Christ is to believe in Him.

To believe in Christ is nothing more or less than to be fully persuaded that the one who has Christ has the Father also! We have the Father as our own Father, together with *a//* His gracious loving kindness, *a//* heavenly blessings, and life eternal.

Of this truth the so-called saints of this world know nothing. For many talk of Christ and so mimic the echo of our words.

Many say the words about Christ who is the eternal Son of God. Great the numbers of those who speak of Christ as the One by whose benefits souls are delivered. Yet Christ warns many of those same proclaimers never learn and experience how He is to be received.

They do not want to learn how God wishes to be made use of, sought, found, and held firmly. Alas, many do not care to know how the Father is to be understood through Christ alone. But they are all the while with Socrates, and others, soaring aloft in their empty thoughts and fanciful speculations.

*My Savior, I behold Thee now with the eye of faith:  
No foe of Thee can rob me, though bitter words he saith.  
Within Thy heart abiding, as Thou dost dwell in me.  
No pain, no death has terrors to part my soul from Thee*

**October 26**

**And I AM no more in the world, and yet  
they themselves are in the world, and I come to You.**

**John 17:11a**

**\* \* \***

Jesus has so far given two reasons why He prayed for His followers, His great family of faith. The *first* reason, where He says: "***They were Yours,***

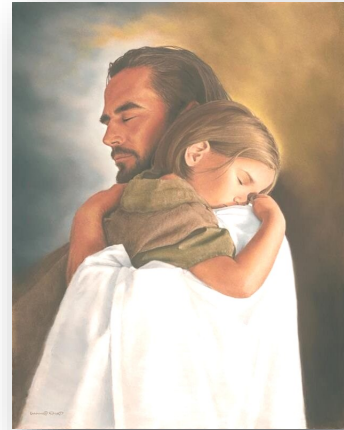
“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

*and You gave them to Me,*” means the Father has taken them out of the world into His kingdom, as His possession, by His grace, and under His **protection**.

**Another reason, is** “*I have been glorified in them,*” that is, they praise Me and confess Me to be He who has all things that are Yours. Now Christ adds a **third** reason: Because He is going away from them, and about to leave them behind in the world in the midst of all perils, persecutions, and bitterness. For when He says, “***I AM no more in the world,***” He speaks as One who is just about to depart and die. He is about to be totally separated from the world.

Christ evidently enters upon another life, which He calls ***going to the Father***. So ask: how does it come to pass that Christ says. “***I come to You,***” when He must, since He is God, still be in the world?

***“In the world”*** means to be in this external and state governed and observed by the senses. To enjoy this life which the world enjoys is called the natural life. Therefore Christ no longer lives a life after the manner of this world. And if He is gone to the Father, then He must of necessity be wherever the Father is. Did you hear and understand that great consolation? The Father is everywhere, both in heaven and out of heaven, in the earth and in all creatures. Christ is now and always shall be wherever the Father is!



*Since Christ has reached His glorious throne, And mighty gifts henceforth are His, My heart can rest in heaven alone, On earth my Lord I always miss; I long to be with Him on high, My heart and thoughts forever fly Where is my only Treasure.*

**October 27**

**Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me.**

**John 17:11b**

\* \* \*

In these words Jesus explains what it is that He prays for, namely, that the Father would receive them as commended to Him. While He is gone and leaves them alone in the world, He asks the Father to preserve them as He had preserved them while present with them.



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

And when He says "Holy Father!" it proceeds from the utmost fervor of His most devoted and passionate heart. It is as though He had said: "O, dear Father, keep them from all false doctrine, that they might persevere in Your holy Word and in the pure Gospel."

"With Your Word they are sanctified! Let them not depart from Your Word, nor fall into merely an outward appearance of holiness. For unless You step into history to preserve them, it is all over with their salvation."

The phrase, "**those You have given Me**" is, as we have before observed, "*those who have My Word*". Christ continually reveals and we dare not forget this. Therefore, what He would say is this:

"Father, You have given believers to Me for this end, that they might become My disciples, and be called to true holiness. Therefore I ask that You grant, O Father, that they may be preserved in their trust. Let them not be defiled by any, nor be led aside and corrupted by any error."

*Thy noblest wonders here we view, in souls renewed, and  
sins forgiven; Lord, cleanse our sins, our souls renew,  
and make Thy Word our guide to heaven.*

October 28

That they may be one, even as We are.

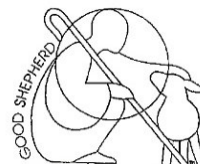
John 17:11c

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Christ is here revealing a grandeur hardly grasped in our day: Christians are to be so intimately united as to be altogether one thing, and to remain one undivided body, even as He and the Father are "one."

Between them there is not only the same mind and will, but their whole indivisible essence is the same. For if Christ is separated from the Father, one God can no longer exist, but God has revealed He is also a divided, separate, and distinct essence. Although the union of the divine essence is so much greater than that of the members in one body, it is impossible for sinners to comprehend it.

At the same time, Christ would also say: My Christians are to be one flock, that is, one whole undivided body. Although there is here a union different from that of nature, namely, a spiritual union. Still it is called being "one," because in it one cannot exist without the other, and if one part is taken away, it can no longer be called one thing, or "one."



"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

The body arising from this union is called Christianity. It is the Holy Christian Church— a communion of all the saints, not a mere sameness. In this Family of Faith are all the saints, the Christians, one multitude, "body," and "lump."

The Christian has this great confidence: "I am certain that when the devil opposes and attacks me, it is not merely me, alone, that is attacked. This is not merely a finger that is harmed, but the whole body is attacked at the same time.

Christ reveals that all Christians, throughout the whole world, are attacked when one Christian is attacked. And therefore God Himself and Christ are attacked.

*Yet she (the Church) on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won; O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and holy, on high may dwell with Thee.*

**October 29**

**While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me.**

**John 17:12**

**\* \* \***

That is, Christ says "as long as they heard and saw Me, and conversed corporally with Me, I kept them in Thy Word."

"I, Your eternal Son, willingly and freely did this by teaching, admonishing, urging, comforting, exhorting, and instructing them in every way. I did keep them so that they might not by any means be drawn aside from the knowledge of the Word."

"And now, as I AM no longer to be in the world. They will hereafter have no more conversation with me corporally, they will neither see nor hear me any more."

"Therefore Father, it remains that You alone shall take the care of preserving them upon Yourself. In this way they shall perse-

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

vere in the Word as they have begun. For, dear and holy, gracious and kind Father in heaven, they have Your Word and are Yours."

*Hark! the Church proclaims her honor. And her strength is only this:  
God hath laid her choice upon her, and the work she doth is His.*

*He His Church has firmly founded, He will guard what He began;  
We by sin and foes surrounded, build her bulwarks as we can.*

*Frail and fleeting are our powers, Short our days, our foresight dim,  
And we own the choice not ours. We were chosen first by Him.*

**October 31**

**But now come I to You; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.**

**John 17:13**

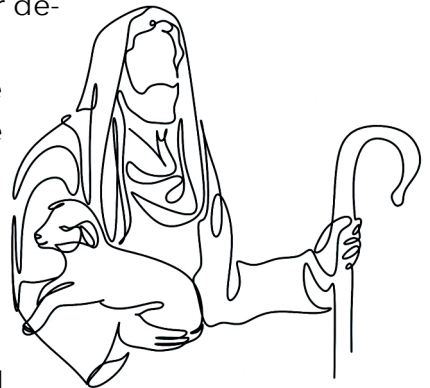
\* \* \*

Jesus says, "After I had called them together and implanted in them My Word, I preserved them so long as I could by my corporal presence. I did this until the Word had taken root and lived in them. In this way the Word might be spread abroad more widely by them.

"And I was with them for this reason: to lay the foundation of this. I obtained for them all those things for which they, together with all Christians, will have need. I obtained all they would even want or desire to receive.

But now the time is at hand that I must come again to Thee and receive My kingdom and make it known by having the Word spread abroad among all nations. Therefore I commend these souls to Thee.

I come to Thee for this cause, that Thou might strengthen and guard them by Thy Holy Spirit and by Thy divine power. And these things I



“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

speaking in the world are a testimony of My commendation of them to Thee. I pray this aloud in order that they might hear how I pray for them to the effect that they may be under Thy sure care and protection. Let them always rely on this: Your words and promises.

In this way they will most surely believe that they will never be forsaken by You, even though the whole world, with all the devils together, should rage against them with all their fury. Bless them with My joy made full through the consolation that is theirs through the Word.

They have heard with their ears and have held firmly in their minds and hearts. Let them be gladdened and say, ‘Behold, Christ my Lord said this!

He has faithfully prayed in this manner *for me* from His heart, I have heard from His mouth that He will defend and preserve *me* by the omnipotent and eternal power and gracious might of His Father.’

*He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend,  
He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!*



Selections from Luther's Commentaries-St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 1535, Edwinus London; Epistles of St. Peter & St. Jude 1523, E. H. Gillett; Select Works of Martin Luther 1555, Rev. Henry Cole; Familiar Discourses of Luther 1566, Capt. Henry Bell, Rev. R.D.Fish; The Lutheran Hymnal; Rev. J.T. Mueller, 1925; Rev Paul A.Tullberg, 2024.