



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### May 15, 2022: Fifth Sunday after Easter Unity Marches Victorious in Diversity

#### *John 17:20-26*

<sup>20</sup>“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,  
<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup>“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.

<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.  
<sup>26</sup>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.”

1. One of the struggles we face is remembering to pray continually. On Maundy Thursday evening Jesus offered many prayers including what is called his “High Priestly Prayer” for all believers. For what reasons were these moments of prayer so important for Jesus? For us?
2. In the preceding sections of this chapter, Jesus prayed for himself. He prayed for his disciples. Here, he also prays for all who would believe the message. Make a list noting all the different things Jesus asks his Father on behalf of believers.
3. Try to imagine the complete unity of the Trinity from eternity. Jesus wants to share that with us and others. What is the only way that we as sinners would ever be able to share in that complete and perfect unity?
4. Jesus prays that we may be brought to complete unity with him, with the result that the world will then know that the Father loves the world just as much as he loves Jesus. In what ways does living in unity with God and each other show the Father's love to the world.
5. Division can often stem from diversity. When people of all different backgrounds, cultures, and ways of thinking come together, their sinful natures can take over and divide them. What are the things that tempt you to be most divisive or angry, or resentful? How will you let Jesus transform those divisive tendencies into uniting ones?
6. The true unity that Jesus is interested in does not come from glossing over differences, but from addressing them in truth and in love. Both need to remain in balance. Which do you think WELS Lutherans have typically focused on more as they deal with people- truth or love?