



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast
October 15, 2023
"Jesus Ends His Final Discourse: John 14-17."

"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed." (John 17:1, NIV)

"The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus": John Chapter 17

John Chapter 17 allows us a unique view into the nature of Jesus' mission, his relationship with God, and his desires for his disciples. The whole of chapter 17 is a prayer spoken by Jesus, often referred to as the "Great Intercessory Prayer." The prayer can be divided into three sections: a prayer for Jesus himself, a prayer for Jesus' disciples, and a prayer for all believers even into the future.

The first prayer (John 17:1-5) Jesus asks to be glorified. Here, "glorification" means that Jesus has shown the fullness of God's glory through his life, death, and resurrection. It culminates his mission to bring honor and glory to God's name through his life and sacrifice.

The second prayer (John 17:6-19) focuses on Jesus' disciples. We remember that in previous chapters Jesus has warned his disciples that they will be persecuted: their life spreading the Gospel will not be easy. Jesus prays for their protection and emphasizes their separation from the world and their mission to carry forth his message.

The final prayer (John 17:20-26) extends to all future believers. Jesus prays for the unity of all who would come to believe in him, "that all of them may be one." Just as Jesus and the Father are one, Jesus prays that all future believers will be able to display the love and unity through proclaiming the Gospel.

Using a prayer, Chapter 17 illustrates the divine relationship between Jesus and God, Jesus' care for his disciples, and Jesus' vision for a united community of believers. Chapter 17 concludes "Jesus' Final Discourse" serving as a reminder of Jesus' mission and the beginnings of our Christian community of faith.

So, let us take comfort and encouragement from this prayer, and let us also pray along with Jesus for ourselves, for our fellow believers, and for the world.

God's Blessings and Peace! - Vance

A Prayer for the Middle East (from "Embrace the Middle East" website)

God, when we see devastating images of war and hear the inconsolable cries of those who have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones, our hearts break. In the face of so much suffering and despair, come Lord and help us to see with your eyes, hear with your ears, think with your mind, speak with your lips, walk with your feet, love with your heart, so that we can reach out with your hands and be a future maker to our brothers and sisters in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. Raise up leaders in the Middle East who will turn from violence and seek your ways of peace that they may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Prayer box: let us pray for recovery of our friends and family members especially Lynn, Ron, and George; Pray for the soul of Fr. Rick and comfort for his family and friends; Pray for John's soul and comfort for his family and friends. Pray for the suffering in the Middle East. **Lord, hear our prayer!**