



Perley Lutheran Parish
May 16th, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter



Gathering Hymn: You Servants of God
You servants of God, your master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name:
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

Our God rules on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our king!

Welcome and Announcements

- Graduation reception following in the gathering space – Isabelle & Grace
- Nora Council meeting after the reception
- Next Sunday – Bowling at Sunset Lanes – see the poster in the entry way or on website
- Service Sunday – May 29 & 30 – check the newsletter as to when the congregations are meeting and what to bring to help.
- Reach out/Food Shelf

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in the Lenten season we heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil-all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving peace of reconciliation. On this day let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with God and each other.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us live together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 1 (Read Responsively)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; **but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, they meditate day and night.** They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. **The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.** Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; **for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Holy Gospel according to John 17:6-19, **Glory to you O Lord**

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

I like milk, don't you? (Drink some of the milk, making sure to get some on your upper lip.) Ahhh... that was good. Oops, I guess I had better wipe off my mustache. Perhaps some of you have seen those advertisements with famous people wearing a milk mustache and asking the question, "Got milk?" (hold up poster) Why are they doing that? Well, they are trying to get people to drink more milk. Why should they care if people drink milk?

The reason they are trying to get people to drink milk is that milk helps to build strong, healthy bodies. Milk is a good source for calcium which helps to build strong bones and teeth. The protein in milk helps to build strong muscles and healthy hair. Other vitamins in milk help to maintain the skin and helps you to stay looking young. Drinking milk is one of the easiest ways to give your body the vitamins and minerals it needs to grow and to be strong and healthy. So, you see, "Got milk?" is a very important question.

I know a question that is even more important than, "Got milk?" In fact, it is the most important question you could ask anyone. Can you guess what that question might be? That question is, "Got Jesus?" What does that mean and why is it such an important question?

The Bible tells us that God has given us eternal life through Jesus Christ, His Son. The Bible says, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." Don't you think that the most important thing you could ask someone is whether or not they have life? After all, if you don't have life, you have nothing.

So, I have an important question to ask, "Got Jesus?" If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that he came to die on the cross to pay the price for your sins, you've got Jesus. And, if you've got Jesus -- you've got life!

Dear Father, thank you for giving us eternal life through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We come to our Gospel today just days after the date of Jesus' ascension to the Father. I always find it really odd that it doesn't get "celebrated" really – it happens on a weekday and it really gets glossed over in the church calendar and gospel series. As Pastors most of us use a book that is published yearly called Sundays and Seasons that guides through the order of the passages, themes, hymns and all things worship. There is a three year cycle – A, B and C – and we use this guide to help us prepare our services and mold our messages to fit what is going on in the Gospel and travel through the church seasons. I'd like to share with you what it says about today, the 7th Sunday of Easter and how it describes what this Sunday should be all about. It says:

The Gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for the followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrine agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come Holy Spirit. Next week is Pentecost – when we WILL hear about the Holy Spirit but for today let's look again at the night before Jesus' death and all that transpired that last evening.

Have you ever had a time in your life when someone has said "I'm prayer for you?" I'm sure we have all had those moments at some time in our lives. People pray for us – I pray for our congregation as a whole, I pray for members who have asked for a little boost for themselves or for others – we all do that at times but there's something about hearing someone actually say "I'm praying for you." It may make you feel a bit uneasy. It can really make you feel vulnerable, right? But it also may fill you with an overflowing sense of love and care that you know that others are thinking of you and that you are not alone. That someone cares enough to take time to lift you in their prayers and that God is right there in the midst of everything.

Sometimes it might come unexpected – you may not even know you NEED prayers. I've had people say that to me, "I'm praying for you" when I wasn't even quite sure what they were referencing. It doesn't have to be about something crazy or bad that's going on in your life, people might just lift you in prayers because they care about you and appreciate you. It gives someone a lift even when things aren't weighing on you but when they are, wow those simple words can mean so very much.

There is a story that goes like this. A person was driving past a church on a busy street in a town. On the church marquee it said "Pray for So and So" (names have been changed to protect the innocent) The driver passing by surely didn't know So and So, they surely had no idea what was going on with So and So that warranted prayers but he found himself thinking about So and so at all different times during that day. He imagined how old so and so was, if so and so was ill or had lost a loved one or if so and so needed physical or mental help. All the while he thought of so and so he lifted so and so up in prayer and imagined that he wasn't the only one. Many people passed by the church and that sign each day and surely others were going through the same process he was in regards to so and so.

Surely we know, we hear and we can feel those that we pray for in church. We list the names of those who have reached out to us each and every week in our prayers for the people. Those are

easy to know and remember and pray for. Those we hear out loud but there are so many ways and times that we may not hear them out loud or feel them holding us. Offering prayers, to those who are ill or struggling with issues, is a wonderful opportunity in which we can share God's love and presence with those who need it most. We can say prayers when others leave us – like these seniors will be doing in a few weeks or months – prayers for safe travels and new stages in their lives. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings and friends all find themselves with prayers on their lips at the time of graduation, every time a new journey begins for our young adults we pray that they will find their way in this sometimes rough and unforgiving world. Our prayers are with Isabelle and Grace today and all those in the graduating class of 2021.

In today's gospel Jesus knows he is about to leave his disciples and that they are now going to be sent out into the world to continue what he has started. Jesus prays for them. Prays for protection and that God will sanctify them, make them holy and protect their souls. This last message to them is almost like his last will and testament in that he knows he is heading to his death and he wants to make sure all the t's are crossed and l's are dotted into what and how things continue in his name. He is praying for the disciples – but he is even more so praying for us. Praying that he came and died for us that we could be saved and safe and our souls can remain protected. Jesus, the one who really does have power of evil and death, is praying for you and me. Jesus sends US out to carry on that which was important to him. Jesus wants us to keep protecting those who need protecting, helping those who are weak and sick and pray for those in need.

Jesus also prayed “sanctify them in truth; your word is truth.” What he was saying is that he wanted us to help others be holy, have courage to campaign for the safety and love of others – even those who are different from ourselves, dare to be different, work to seek peace and justice – those are what sanctify them in truth is all about. It's not an easy truth but it's the truth that we as Christians claim when we follow the commands to love others as we love Him.

I have a prayer for each and every one of us this morning. I pray that we will take seriously our identities as children of God. I pray that we will seek to live in the identity as a disciple of Jesus Christ. I pray that we would pray for each other so that we might have the courage to live differently in our cultures and in our world.

What if we believed that Jesus was praying for our safety and holiness? What if WE prayed for the same for each other? Would it change how we looked at this world? At this congregation? Would we act and worship differently? Would it affect our choices on when and how we spend our time and our resources? We all see people making choices in which they put their crazy hectic life over their faith. I worry, because so much energy is spent on everything other than Church. I wonder when and how the pews will fill again. How the believers will return to gather in the midst of all that our lives deal have been dealing with and continue to pull us from church.

We want our families, our children, to grow in faith. We often times thought fail to make choices that allow that faith to be nurtured in us and in our families. It's not something that comes easy – it's an intentional choice to make. Putting God first isn't simple and yet, Jesus gave all of himself in order for all of us to be saved. Seems fitting then that we make choices to continue in his footsteps as disciples of the Lord.

Remember, Jesus is praying for you. Jesus wants all of us to live as children of God and promises to be with us and give us strength in whatever comes our way. Remember to pray for others, those that are nearby and those that are far away. Remember that prayer can protect our faith and our souls. Remember that Jesus is praying for us and that all the power of God is with us. Isabelle and Grace, remember that there are so very many praying for you, here today and throughout, this new adventure. And most of all, remember that there is nothing that has power greater than the power of God. Amen!

Hymn of the Day: Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God, and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars of high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Senior Recognition

We are delighted to recognize high school graduates of Nora Lutheran today. It is our privilege to affirm these members of our congregation who have completed one phase of their lives and move with great expectations onto another.

Isabelle and Grace, will you please come up front and face the congregation:

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare to begin new endeavors, be mindful of your grounding in faith, and of your vocation to serve God in all your life's work and accomplishments.

Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially for the milestones that Isabelle and Grace will have attained in their upcoming graduation. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they also know your love and feel your peace in all the experiences they encounter. Bless also the parents of these students who have raised their children and nourished them in the Christian faith. Give them strength in your continuing presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their daughters who may be leaving home soon to begin new and varied ventures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Giving of the quilts – (brief comments from the graduates)

Blessing of the graduates

(Invite all worshipers to raise their hands, Family to come forward to place a hand on their daughter's shoulder)

Congregation: **Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and send us in to the world as you loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Gracious God, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need. Today we lift up Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Kirk, Byron and Whitney and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Creating God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. We pray for Isabelle and Grace as they graduate from High School and head off into what lies ahead. Give us thankful hearts as we all claim the gifts that are unique to us and use them in your loving name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

After Communion Prayer

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witness, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Song: Go My Children with My Blessing

Go, my children with my blessing, never alone.

Walking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children with my blessing, you are my own.

I the Lord will bless you and keep you and give you peace.

I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace.

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.

Go, my children. I will keep you and give you peace.

Dismissal – Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Mark Your Calendars:

- Sunday, May 23rd – Services at 9am at Kirkebo (live streamed and in-person)
- Sunday, May 23rd – Bingo Fundraiser for Perley Parish Food Shelf.
Sunset Lanes in Moorhead, MN 12-3pm
- Saturday, May 29th – Nora Fifth Sunday project. 9am. Bring yard gear and cleaning supplies to do some work around and in the church.
- Sunday, May 30th – Kirkebo Fifth Sunday project. 10am. Bring yard gear and cleaning supplies to do some work around and in the church.

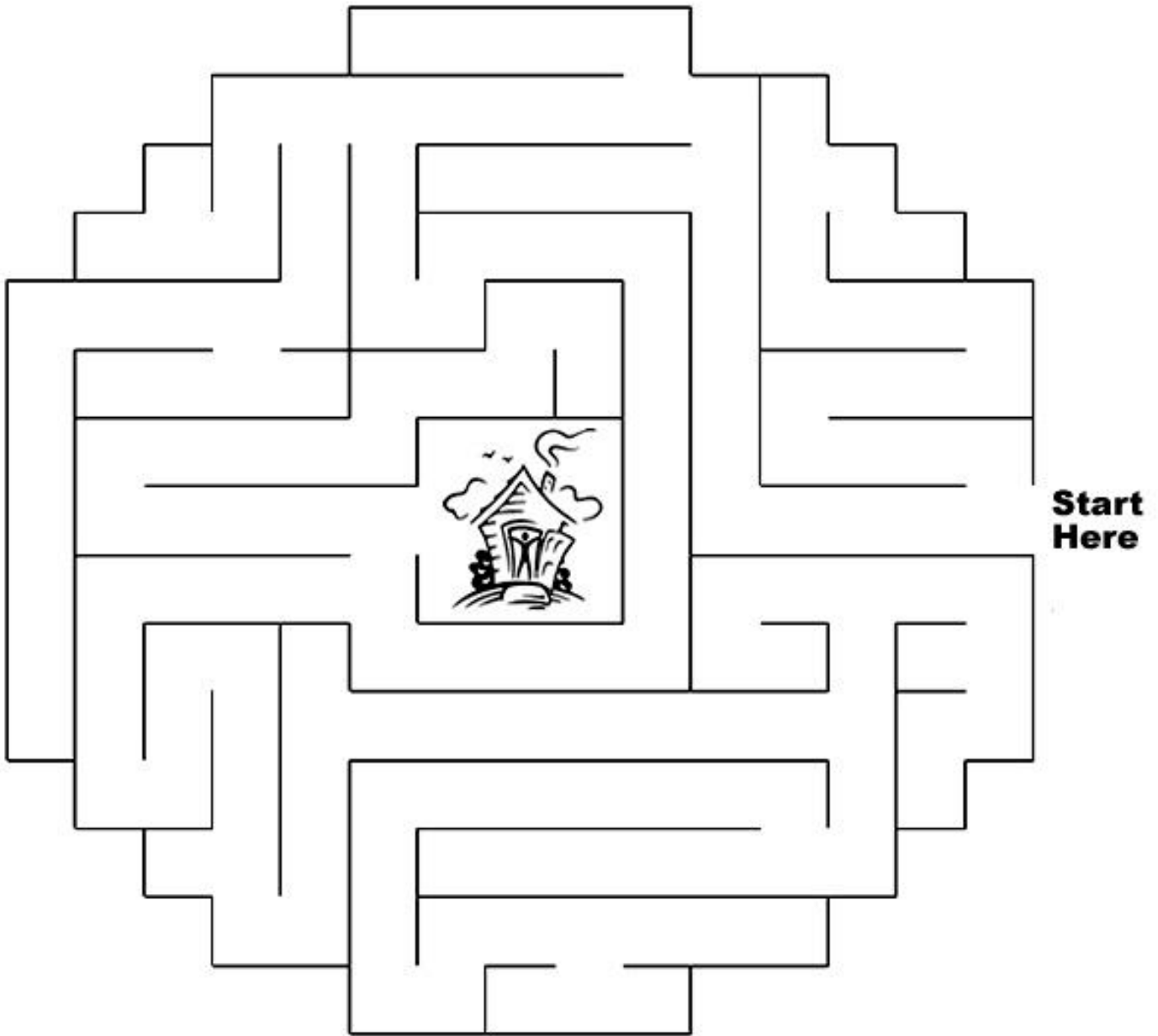
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Jesus Prays for His Disciples



Through Life's Maze

Can you find your way home?



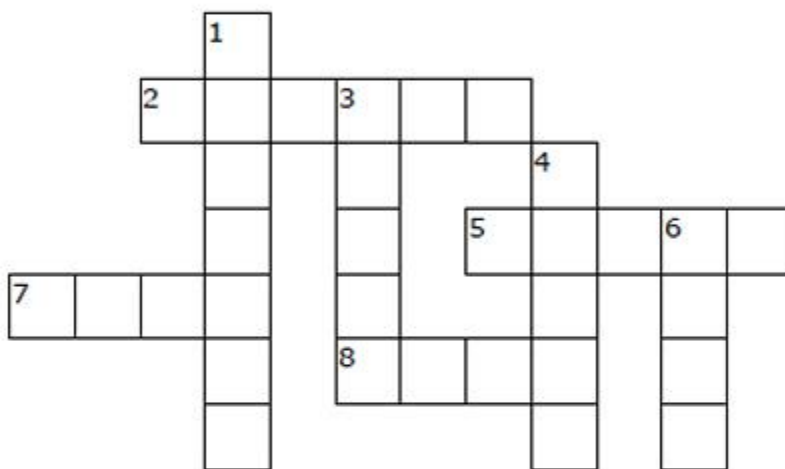
I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name.

John 17:11a (NIV)

Through Life's Maze

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name. John 17:11a (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 17:6-19



ACROSS

2. Speaking to God
5. The earth and all the people and things upon it
7. To put into the hands of another person
8. To be free from danger or harm

DOWN

1. To keep from being injured or harmed
3. That which belongs to you
4. Physical or mental strength
6. Unable to find the way

PROTECT
PRAYER

POWER
SAFE

GIVE
LOST

YOURS
WORLD

Through Life's Maze

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name. John 17:11a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 17:6-19



P B N S I N I Z F B I N L Z V
M P Z V C D W O R D Q S B J V
Y F N Q L R C J T K Q H N O J
X H D R C P I P R T G L R T O
Q B O N J S R P O I Z K I S Y
Y W J F B A P A T F V I M T B
X A P B H F H R Y U Y U A P E
T Q C V U E L Y O E R R S T L
O E V I L C A Z J T R E G Q I
S B O T D T C C G L E K V O E
M Q E D Q I C U C Q O C O A V
T C L Y T R U T H E R L T N E
I E F O U U L N Q A P S I V E
S I C F S F X P J D B T A M V
I Z N S G T U S U K O G Z I T

ACCEPT
ONE
GAVE

SAFE
EVIL
OBEY

SCRIPTURE
JOY
LOST

WORD
WORLD
TRUTH

PROTECT
BELIEVE
PRAYER