

**Greetings from God the Father and from our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit. Amen**

John 10:22-30

Safe in His Name

*“Oh, no, my purse!” Lynn was about to wrap up a nice evening with friends at a fine restaurant when she discovered that her purse was missing from her side. Her husband, friends, and restaurant workers looked frantically all over for the missing purse, without success.*

*When something’s been snatched away from you, you lose not only your belongings, but your sense of security is also crushed. “How can someone snatch away your stuff like that?” we ask in disbelief. Oh, no, my driver’s license! My credit cards! My Social Security card! Identity theft! I’m not safe anymore! (Lutheran Pulpit supply)*

In John 10, wolves and thieves are ready to snatch the sheep away from their shepherd. In spite of our disbelief about human behavior and evil acts in the world, the Lutheran confessors quite realistically note that one’s sense of security or being safe from sin in the world “could easily be lost from our hands, or through the devil’s and the world’s craft” (FC SD XI 46).

The Lutheran Confessors are correct in their concerns that if you rely on your own efforts (lost from our hands) you would be lost. 'Lost from our hands' can be viewed as such: As children do cause their parents to have concerns from time to time, you, as a child of God may do things in your lives that could remove yourself from Jesus' hand. You look at "things" other than Jesus. .... Another you trust in yourself that if you work hard enough at doing good works God will love you. Or, for you - a long time children of God, your faith is not producing as much fruits as in the past because you "think" that you have gone beyond the age that God can use you or ..... you think you have done enough. Another too comfortable status in your faith is when you think, 'God will forgive me' before you do that sin. This is adding a sin upon a sin and is very dangerous. You know you are sinning and yet refuse to attempt to change your ways, it is another sin ..... All sins hinder God's work in you. Sin hinders your growth in Christ and the works God wants you to show forth for His glory through you. The main concern is that any sin has a potential of causing you to remove yourself from Jesus' hand of protection. This is the reason that sins needs to be confessed. Any sin can become the main force in your life, that thing that you trust in most, the one thing you nurture, and hang onto rather than focusing on Jesus.

*Upon returning home that night, Lynn canceled all her credit cards. The next day, the bank called Lynn to inform her that her credit cards had been found on the ground by a gas pump somewhere. Fortunately, the bank also confirmed that no charges had been made. Above all, Lynn was relieved to find out that her Social Security card was still at home and hadn't been in the purse. But to avoid identity theft in the future, she decided to put the card in the bank's safety deposit box for safekeeping.*

You as a believer in Christ have been placed in something better than any safety deposit box when you are in the hands of Jesus. Believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose on the third day for your sins, that faith given to you by God places you into His hand. God has placed you in His hand. You are secure and safe in His hands. Being in His Hands you trust Him for everything in your life. Jesus will provide for you; He will protect you from the storms of life. He will protect you from the devil's accusations that he throws at you.

In our Gospel, Jesus proclaims that ***I and the Father are One***. Jesus is God in the flesh. Some religions in America want to place Jesus as a lesser god than the Father. Jesus is not. We teach and know that it is true that God, the true God, is the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks to the disbelieving Jews gathered around Him that day "in

the colonnade of Solomon – and to all who doubt – to look at the works that He has done. In the previous chapters Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth. Jewish religion claimed and believed if one is born blind that only God Himself could cause that man to see. In the following verses Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus proclaims, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Again the miracle of raising Lazarus could be done **only** by God. We live secure and protected when we keep focus on Christ. For Christ is the resurrection and the life. In Jesus and only in Jesus we find and have life, eternal life. There is no other person in which we can be saved. We do not have to worry about our identity in Jesus being stolen when Jesus is holding us in His hands. ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.*** Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He has called you by your name (in the waters of your Baptism) and He knows you by your name. You are Jesus’ sheep who hears Jesus’ voice and follow Him. Jesus is the Good Shepherd that gave His life for His sheep and gave His life for a ransom on the cross for you. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to give you eternal life.

You are in Jesus' hand safe and secure. And if you are in Jesus' hand you are also in the God the Father's hand. And no one can snatch you from the Father's hand. In your Baptism you were sealed with the cross as one redeemed by Christ the crucified. And since you are in Jesus' hand, with certainty, you will be brought by His hand from this life into His Heavenly kingdom and to Wedding feast of the Lamb safe and secure. In His Hand is the BEST and ONLY place to be Safe and Secure.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen