LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH Garner, nc 8/26/18

Time to Suit Up

In the name…

Let us pray…

I think all of you know I am a Marvel comics fan. It could be DC but they are not as good Recently the movie out there was Ant Man and the Wasp and not long before that, Avengers Infinity Wars. Most times when things happening in the world required the super heroes attention they would “Suit Up” , Often it would just mean pressing a button. Yesterday the family of Jack Austin asked that we Suit Up wearing NC State shirts or red. But that was a one day tribute to Jack.

The Scriptures today tell us how we “Suit up” as Christians permanently.

It start with Jesus and His disciples.

Remember I said this group of 5000 was just lingering. We had exhausted the lessons about it. And now some of them were leaving and Jesus asks His disciples, “will you also go away?” That might get us thinking bout Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as well when He asks, “Can you not watch one hour? We can be right with Jesus, following scripture listening to scripture,and yet we have gon away. And as always Peter responds, “Lord, to Whom shall we go?

Those who stay put on the whole armor of God according to St. Paul

There was a similar reluctance in the lesson from Joshua. People were forsaking their God, And God speaks directly to His people calling their faithfulness into question their loyalty to the Lord and they recount God’s history with them the Exodus. the times when He protected them from their enemies. And kept them safe. And Joshua is talking to his military force who he is asking not to forsake God and His people. To do that, however, they would have to suit up. The same equipment that they would use in what Paul describes when he describes the armor of God.

The belt of truth. Harkening back to the long gospel section when Jesus says He is the Truth, the Way, and the Life. The truth is, for us Christians we are nothing without Christ. We can do nothing worthy without Christ. The breastplate of the Righteousness. Even our righteousness comes from God So that belt of Truth and Breastplate of righteousness remind us of who ae are. Yesgtefda the casualness of the worship called for sneakers

Shoes to proclaim peace. Yesterday the casualness of the worship called for sneakers, what an appropriate symbol since marches often are the ways to work for peace.

The shield of faith. Some might attempt to take a death, such as Jacks and throw a flaming sword to say, “Why have faith, look what your faith got you?” Our shiled of faith can deflect all such arrows.

And we can counter this by uplifting the helmet of salvation. Especially when we experience deaths of loved ones. The helmet of Salvation assures us that that loved one is with Jesus in paradise.

The sword of the Spirit it as indeed visible yesterday in the form of red the color of the Spirit

And that Spirit will keep reminding us has clothed us with His whole armor, which we do not have to press to engage or find it in our closets. God has made it part of us and we wear it through life.

In the name…