

# Sunday Message

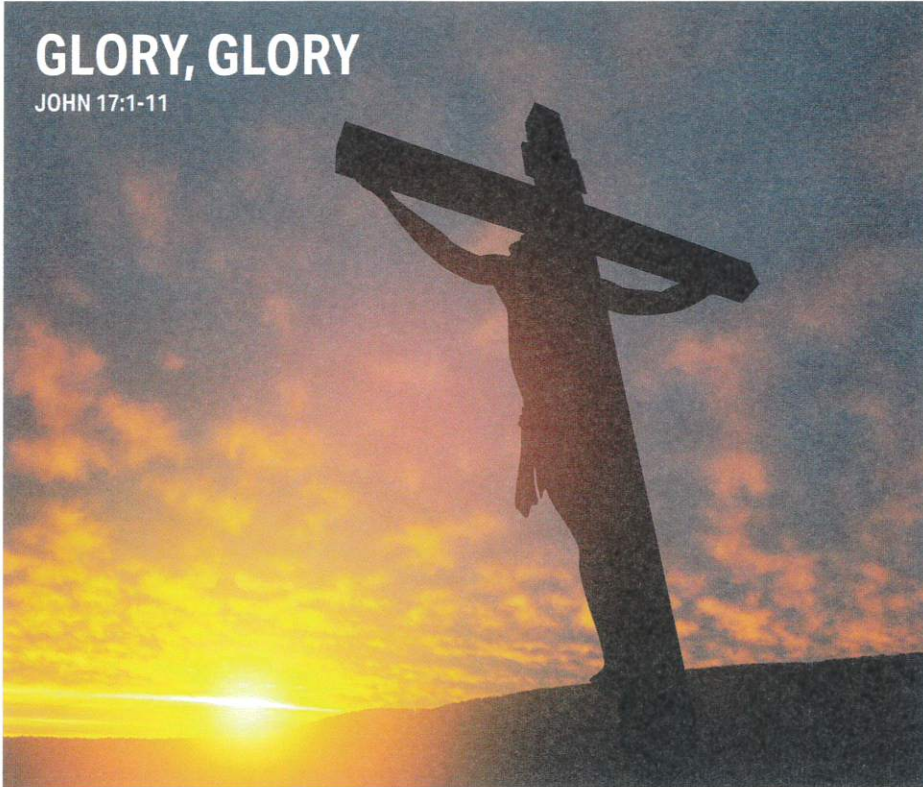
7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 17 May 2026 • Psalter Week 3

## GLORY, GLORY

JOHN 17:1-11



Today's Gospel comes from what is known as the final discourse of Jesus, as the disciples gather in the upper room to celebrate the Passover. Jesus knows full well that he is about to endure his passion and death. He knows the suffering he is about to undergo. Despite the fact that he is about to be crucified as a criminal and a failure, Jesus uses an unlikely word to describe what will happen to him. He talks about being glorified.

'Glory' is a key word in the Gospel of John. To any casual observer, Jesus' mission was a failure. But seen from the perspective of God's saving plan, it was not a failure but a glorious triumph. If Jesus was nailed to a cross, it was so that he could be lifted up, exalted in glory. That process of glory will begin very soon. In it, Jesus will be revealed as the faithful servant of God who was despised and rejected but who would be raised to great heights.

Jesus describes the key to eternal life. "Eternal life," Jesus tells his disciples, is "to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent." Do this, and all of us will have a share in the glory of heaven. Do this, and we will enjoy the heavenly banquet for ever. ■

### DO

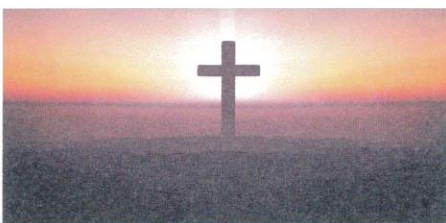
Think about the words of St Peter in today's second reading. How does your faith affect the decisions you make every day? Would your priorities and world view be any different if you did not believe in God?

### PRAY

Often we think of Christian martyrs as figures from the past but more Christian martyrs are being created now than at any time in history. Pray for all those who are happy to suffer and even lose their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to witness to you every day to the best of my ability. Never let me be parted from you. Amen."



## REFLECT



In the second reading, St Peter talks about sharing in the sufferings of Christ. It is a blessing, he says, when people mock and insult you for being a Christian. One should thank God for the honour of bearing the name of Christ. It's an extraordinary change from a short period before when Peter denied Jesus three times, and had locked himself behind closed doors, afraid for his life. Now Peter is on fire with faith. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, he preaches the Good News to anyone who will listen. He is happy even to die for the sake of the Gospel. Peter's belief in the resurrection has changed his life completely.

Unlike Peter, we may never have denied Jesus publicly. Unlike him, we may never have locked ourselves behind closed doors out of fear of persecution. We do not face the prospect of martyrdom. But witnessing to the Gospel in the 21st century is not easy. It is to risk being laughed at or ridiculed. It can be tempting to keep our heads down, to practise our faith quietly, almost surreptitiously, to not wish to offend secular friends or rock any boats.

Would you be happy to suffer for your faith, as St Peter advocates in his letter? Would you be happy to risk life and liberty for the sake of the Gospel? Would you be prepared even to die for it? At the end of the day, how strong would you say your faith is? ■

## LEARN

The Christian witnesses to the faith at all times.

Prayer is central to the life of the Christian.

The Christian looks forward to the glory of the resurrection.

Eternal life, Jesus says, is to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;  
hide not your face from me, alleluia.*

**COLLECT**

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,  
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race  
is with you in your glory,  
may experience, as he promised,  
until the end of the world,  
his abiding presence among us.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to  
Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem,  
a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they  
went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and  
John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew  
and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot  
and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were  
devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and  
Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R. 13

*R: I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land  
of the living.*

Or *Alleluia.*

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread? **R.**
2. There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,  
to enquire at his temple. **R.**
3. O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
'Seek his face.' **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that  
you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.  
If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed,  
because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let  
none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or  
as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not  
be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** cf. John 14:18

**R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you,  
and your hearts will rejoice.

**R: Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** John 17:1-11a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,  
'Father, the hour has come;

glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,  
since you have given him authority over all flesh,  
to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life,  
that they know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth,  
having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.  
And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence  
with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.  
'I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me  
out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me,  
and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything that you have given me is  
from you.

For I have given them the words that you gave me,  
and they have received them  
and have come to know in truth that I came from you;  
and they have believed that you sent me.

I am praying for them.

I am not praying for the world  
but for those whom you have given me,  
for they are yours.'

All mine are yours, and yours are mine,  
and I am glorified in them.

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world,  
and I am coming to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotedness  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Father, I pray that they may be one  
as we also are one, alleluia.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
and grant us confidence,  
that through these sacred mysteries  
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church  
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Amen.*