

## Easter 7 Year A

John 17:1-11

### John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

”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.”

**Let us pray:**

God, help us to build your kingdom here, and not our own.  
While we work every day here, amidst your bountiful Creation,  
please keep eternity in our hearts.

--Amen

**Sermon:**

In today's Gospel, Jesus is in Gethsemane,  
just hours after the Last Supper.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus knew that a horrible death was coming.

He was terrified.

So he's talking with His Dad.

He's sweating blood.<sup>2</sup>

But he was still thinking of his guys:

*"All mine are yours, and yours are mine"* he said.

*And "I have been glorified in them."*

The word "glory", as Jesus used it, needs a little explanation.

Today, might say that a person is "covered" with "glory"

if she shoots a 50 point basketball game,

or he throws a 350 yard football game.

But, that wasn't what St. John was talking about.

The Greek word for "glory" is *doxa*,

Which came from the Hebrew word *kavod* (כבוד),

"Glory" was about a blend Truth, and True Belief In Action.

St. John wasn't talking about the kind of "glory"

that makes someone rich or famous.

He was talking about the kind of glory

where someone sees the Light,

and believes and acts on the Vision.

Dana and I love animals.

We've lost our Kitty and all of our dogs now.  
The house is a little bit lonely.  
*Relationships matter.*

All of us were created by God for relationship. 3  
*Relationships matter.*

Jesus did the work that God gave him to do,<sup>4</sup>  
Through that work he glorified God.  
He did that work through his relationships.  
His Mother. His friends, and disciples.  
His brothers, His sisters.

*Jesus glorified God through relationships, and we shall, too!*

After the Last Supper Jesus walked the well worn path  
to a Garden he knew quite well.

He knew that the stuff was about to hit the fan.  
*And* like anyone else, he needed a safe place. 5

Jesus wanted some space, but he didn't want to be alone.  
He said to his guys, "Stay awake, and watch!" 6  
But nobody stayed awake. 7

But relationships matter,  
So he asked, "Holy Father, protect them ...  
*that they may be one, as we are one.*" 8

Jesus knew that people need to stand together.<sup>9</sup>  
Because Life can be hard. 10

I look forward to heaven one day.  
But this wonderful, blessed life matters too.

It is where we are called to do God's Holy work.  
It is where we are called to be, right now.

Do you know that God's work isn't about making our lives easier?  
It is about serving others.

God's work is about washing your hands and wearing a mask.  
It is about lending a hand.

God's work is about helping others to live and  
Helping them be what God has called them to be.  
Working with God and with other people  
– hand in hand.

Life can be tough.<sup>11</sup>

If it isn't COVID, it's bad politics, or bad weather,  
or old age and arthritis.

But in the midst of the rough stuff,  
This is still the place that God called "good",  
*This is a sacred place.*

*Ignore the politicians!*

*Tune out the self-serving billionaires! 12*

*Tune into God, and God's His people and God's Creation.*

Ask yourself, "what would Jesus want me to do, today?"

- The first will be last and the last shall be first.  
Help someone who's in a tough spot.
- Freely offer forgiveness, even when you are really upset.

How many times shall we forgive, Peter asked Jesus?  
times 7.

70

- Use your connections to help someone else.

Paul wrote to Philemon, appealing for Onesimus, a runaway slave. Give someone a break.

*Give someone a break.*

-AMEN

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1 He had already The Son of God had already been crucified and resurrected and was heading home to his Father.

2 That is a medical phenomenon called “hematidrosis”. It is very uncommon but still, very real. This condition occurs when the capillary blood vessels, which feed the sweat glands, rupture, causing the glands to exude blood. Such an event is associated with conditions of extreme physical or emotional stress. See, the interesting article at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2810702/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2810702/). If nothing else, this phenomenon shows that Jesus of Nazareth was entirely human. See also, (Matthew 26:38; cf. Mark 14:34).

3 And Jesus is The Way!

4 John 17.

5 The Son of God? Yes! But just as scared as anyone else.

6 See, Matt. 26. When Jesus returns Peter, James and John are sound asleep. Jesus famously says, according to Matthew, “What, couldn’t you watch with me one hour? .... the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

7 Even while they were catching Z’s, utterly clueless. *Jesus was praying for His people. “All mine are yours, and yours are mine” he said.* Jesus knew the world would push back against his people. He knew the world is strong.

But his Father is stronger.

8 And Jesus also said: “I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.” Jesus prayed that his people would have joy in the work they are called to do.

9 Have you seen a bumper sticker that says that the driver is just “passing through”, on the way to his real home. “Warning! In case of Rapture This Car Won’t Have a Driver.” As if life here doesn’t matter. But doesn’t Genesis say that when God rested, He looked over creation and found that it was “good”?

10 I get it. Loud and clear! In my young years I had to work terribly hard. I was hungry a lot and really skinny. Once I was sick for months, unable to rest; I couldn’t find the 7 bucks to buy the medicine I need to stop coughing. I wore

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a mask at work. Graveyard shift. (I don't really like masks.) But, in the worst moments, someone would always come forward and give me a hand. 50 cents for a gallon of gas. A few eggs. That is How God works. That is how we are blessed and it is those little things that we are called to bless others.

11 But, remember Genesis 3:1-2: "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good."

12 For the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Ps. 19:1