



38A EASTER 7 ONLINE LITURGY

Glorify My name in your lives

Abstract

For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

John 17:8-10 (NIV)

Revised Common Lectionary. (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

38A Easter 7 Online Liturgy

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Glorify My name in your lives

Sunday, May 24, 2020 | Easter | Seventh Sunday of Easter or Ascension Sunday

Year A

First Reading, Psalm, New Testament & Gospel, Option I

First Reading Acts 1:6–14

Psalm Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35

New Testament 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11

Gospel John 17:1–11

or

First Reading, Psalm, New Testament & Gospel, Option II

First Reading Acts 1:1–11

Psalm Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

New Testament Ephesians 1:15–23

Gospel Luke 24:44–53

Glorify my name

John 17.1-11

Jesus says that the hour has come for him to glorify the Father. He prays for those who have kept God’s word and so belong to God. He prays for their protection in the world as he leaves it, and that they may be one.

This week’s resources explore: Jesus’ prayer that he is glorified in our lives.

	<p>Pre-Service Oh how good it is by Keith & Kristyn Getty</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>

We Gather

Glory to God in the highest.
 Glory to God the Father.
 Glory to Jesus the Son.
 Glory to the Holy Spirit.
 Glory to God in the highest.

Let us pray
 Mighty God,
 we gather in humility to worship you.
 Caring God,
 we bring to you our concerns.
 Glorious God,
 we exalt your holy name.

Unite us – make us one in you,
 that your love may strengthen and empower us.
 Amen.

Hymn/song

TIS #477 – Jesus calls us here to meet us

Welcome

Let us pray
 Lord of all glory, we come before you
 seeking your wisdom,
 that we may glorify you through our thinking;
 seeking your love,
 that we may glorify you through our emotions;
 seeking your strength,
 that we may glorify you at all times;
 seeking your perseverance,
 that we may glorify you in all places.
 Show us how to live,
 that our lives shine with your glory,
 and those who encounter us may know you
 and that you are at work in your world.
 Amen.

Readings

John 17:1–11(NIV)

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
 “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life
 to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you,
 the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought
 you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now,

Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me, and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ 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, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹

respond

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn/song/video

ATO #311 – "Be still and know I am God"

We say Sorry

When our actions are not loving,
and we think of just ourselves –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

When our words bring hurt to others
and we do not even notice –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

When the way we live is selfish
and we find no time for you –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

When we do not see you or reveal your love –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

Forgive and renew us,
and let your glory be seen in our lives.
Amen.

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>Hymn/Song Glorify your name by Hillsong</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Biggest Prayer Ever Prayed John 17:1-11</p> <p>Robert Fulghum wrote a book "All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten". He writes "Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.</p> <p>"These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody...</p> <p>"Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.</p> <p>Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that...</p> <p>"Think of what a better world it would be if we all the whole world had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes.</p> <p>And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together."</p> <p>As I contemplate my own period of isolation and the any of you that are doing the same, I am comforted by the fact that I live in a world that does hold hands and stick together. We do this best when we take to trouble to know each other.</p>

Today we relive Christ's last night on earth and the greatest prayer ever prayed.
It is also the longest prayer we have from Jesus.

As we read John's as we have done here over the last few weeks
We read Jesus' grace demonstrated in saving sinners.
We see his compassionate heart as he brings healing to sick people and
food to the hungry.
We meet his power revealed in raising the dead.

In this book we find the love of God demonstrated and explained as nowhere else.
And like a pinnacle,
John 17 rises above the other high peaks in John's book.

Here we can glimpse into Jesus' very soul.
We never get any closer to someone than when we know about their
prayers.
So it is not overstating anything to say
that when we come to this chapter, we are entering holy ground
and we should come in a spirit of reverence and humility,
expecting to be touched in a very deep way.

This week, we celebrated Ascension Day,
albeit with the COVID-19 restrictions in place.
It is a festival marks Jesus' ascension to heaven and, in Acts 1.10,
another reading for this week
we read that the disciples 'were gazing up towards heaven' as Jesus was going.

In John 17.1,
it says that Jesus 'looked up to heaven' and spoke to his father,
delivering what was arguably his most extensive and profound
prayer.
(I envisaged Jesus having his arms outstretched as he did this,
which is probably due to me watching too many Hollywood films.)

While many Bible scholars suggest that
only a matter of several weeks separated these two instances of 'looking
up',
there are numerous references in the Bible
to prophets, priests and kings looking to the heavens
for inspiration, guidance and signs.
Indeed, some climbed mountains
in the hope of getting closer to the one from whom they sought answers.

So I don't need to feel alone if I either physically or mentally follow suit.

I do admit though that,
unless you're a farmer or meteorologist,
the concept of 'looking up to the heavens' tends to be more of a metaphorical one.

How often do we speak of 'looking up' the answer to a question
or pondering whether things are 'looking up' – showing improvement.

However, in both these readings,
 'looking up' meant focusing on a God who has all the answers.
 In John 17.1-11, Jesus asks his heavenly father to protect his disciples
 and all those who seek to follow him.
 I like to think that the Lord had his arms outstretched – Hollywood style
 when he said this because it would be a clear indication to us that,
 as we look to God for guidance,
 we should also be reaching out to others, especially at this time.

In many cultures,
 people often talk about 'looking up' someone,
 which means visiting a person to make sure they are alright.
 Currently, this is still difficult, despite the easing of the lockdown.

Yet, one of the most inspiring developments of this crisis has been
 the way people have been 'looking out' for one another,
 and showing a hitherto unknown form of neighbourliness,
 especially in big cities.

So, as we slowly emerge from lockdown as a country,
 may we also continue 'looking up' to God
 for the inspiration and ideas
 as to how we can better look out for those
 who will be unable to take advantage of the easing of these restrictions.

In the letter to the Hebrews we read,
 Brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling,
 consider that Jesus, the apostle, and high priest of our confession,
 was faithful to the one who appointed him. (Hebrews 3:1-2)

We have this hope,
 a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,
 a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain,
 where Jesus,
 a forerunner on our behalf, has entered,
 having become a high priest forever
 according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:19-20)

Because of this, we can live with the confidence that we are kept eternally secure in
 God's power.
 I know that whatever God does endures forever;
 nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it;
 God has done this,
 so that all should stand in awe before him. (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

Our Lord Jesus assures us,
 My sheep hear my voice.
 I know them, and they follow me.
 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them out of my hand.
 What my Father has given me is greater than all else,
 and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.
 The Father and I are one. (John 10:27-30)

Here is the glorious good news of the prayer that Jesus prays for us
 on this darkest of nights in his life.
 Our salvation is not dependent on our holding onto God,
 but on Christ Jesus our high priest securely holding onto us.
 In return, we should hold on to each other.

"Consequently he is able for all time
 to save those who approach God through him,
 since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

To which we say, "Hallelujah!
Amen!"

Prayers for all people

I would like you to *adopt a comfortable position.*
Light a candle as a visual focus, or at least imagine one
then invite people to reflect on these questions:

Where have I seen God's glory this week?
In creation? In activity? In other people?
And how do I react to God's glory?
How do I want to react?
How do I feel about being in the midst of the glory of God?
How can I help that glory shine through?

Unite us in your glory, loving Lord,
 that you may be more clearly seen in your world.
 Lord, may your glory be seen in what we do and who we are.

We bring before God our concerns for our world:
 where there is war we pray for peace;
 where there is sickness we pray for health;
 where there is despair we pray for hope.
 We cast all your anxiety on him,
 because he cares for us.

We pray that you would be active in health care:
 in the work of doctors and dentists, psychiatrists, and psychologists,
 nurses and administrators, pharmacists, and researchers.
 We cast all your anxiety on him,
 because he cares for us.

Guide our activity in the church:
 may we find ways to grow;
 may we always honour you;
 may we serve our communities.

We cast all your anxiety on him,
 because he cares for us.

We hold in your love those whom we love:
 those who are sick;
 those who are sorrowful;
 those who need guidance and direction.

We cast all your anxiety on him,
 because he cares for us.

Come to us, God of glory.
 Hear us, heal us and shine through our lives.

We cast all your anxiety on him,
 because he cares for us.

Amen.

Communion Liturgy

Communion Hymn

TIS # 535 - "I am the bread of Life"

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Today we will celebrate Holy Communion,
 not as we have always done
 but in the same spirit as we have always done.

There will be those who choose not to celebrate Holy Communion in this way,
 but instead choose to wait until they are able to physically meet.

We respect your decision,
 but for those who wish to celebrate,
 I ask you to have your own bread and wine
 (maybe a glass of juice or even water if you choose)
 and continue to share with us.

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
 who earnestly repent of their sin
 and seek to live in peace with one another.

Let us pray

Be present, risen Lord Jesus,
 as you were with your disciples,
 and make yourself known to us
 in the breaking of the bread;
 for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

	<p>The Prayer of Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you! And also with you! Lift up your hearts! We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise!</p>
	<p>We give you all thanks and praise, O God, for you give strength to the weak, freedom to the prisoners, and an eternal home to the homeless,</p> <p>With the Son and the Spirit you lived before the world existed, and all things were created from your love. You led your people through the desert from slavery to the promised land and nourished them through your law and prophets.</p>
	<p>And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, gathered with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:</p> <p>Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!</p>
	<p>Your Son, Jesus Christ, glorified you on earth by finishing your work, and making you known to us as the only true God in whom we find eternal life. When he was crucified, you raised him to new life, and when he ascended into heaven he promised to send the Holy Spirit, who fills us with your truth and power, and protects us in the name of Christ, so that we may be one, as you are one.</p> <p>Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.</p> <p>We are empowered by your Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we are bold to pray</p>

	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN</p>
	<p>The breaking of the bread</p> <p><i>The minister lifts the bread and breaks it in full view of the people</i> <i>The minister lifts the Bread and cup in full view of the people</i> We break this bread and take this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ. God's gifts for God's people.</p>
	<p>Lamb of God</p> <p>Lamb of God, you find us in our blindness Lift us up. Lamb of God, you lead us to your fold. Hold us close. Lamb of God, you conquer all injustice. We cry for peace.</p>
	<p>Distribution</p> <p>Receive this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.</p> <p><i>Words such as the following are said before or during the distribution.</i> The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.</p> <p>The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.</p>

	<p>Prayer after Communion</p> <p>Gracious God, we praise, worship, and adore you for the food received at your table. We go from here, strengthened, refreshed, and empowered by your Spirit to be true and joyful witnesses to Jesus Christ.</p> <p>We look to that day when, with the great company of witnesses that surround us, we may eat and drink and be glad about him in the glory of your kingdom. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #531 – “Sent forth by God’s Blessing”</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace</p>
	<p>Benediction</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>