



# 36A 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.

Jim de Jong  
jim@dejongs.id.au

## 36A Easter 7 Online Liturgy 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.

### Welcome and opening prayer

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.

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.**

### Introduction

This is one of the few passages to provide us with an inkling of how Jesus might have prayed – at least as John the evangelist understood him to do so. And in what might be described as his farewell prayer, there is an intimacy between Jesus and God that is almost unfathomable. We witness the depth of Jesus' love for his disciples, that saw him put their eternal welfare before his imminent suffering and death. Invite them to imagine being beside Jesus as he prayed this prayer.

### Reading

*John 17:1–11*

**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. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

<sup>6</sup> “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. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>1</sup>

### Exegesis

John's Gospel does have a prayer offered by Jesus that resembles the anguish of the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane in the Synoptics, but it is back in chapter 12 (12.27-36). This prayer has a quite different quality. Jesus looks up to heaven and says, 'Glorify your Son.' We often think of glory as dazzling light, the spiritual equivalent of some heavenly bling, but when the term is used in this passage several other meanings emerge. The crucifixion, for all its horror and darkness, will be the hour in which Jesus is glorified (v.1). Jesus has also glorified his Father by finishing the work he was sent to do (v.4). Jesus even says that he has been glorified in his disciples (v.10). Glory, like knowledge, is deeply relational and mutual: Jesus requests that the Father glorify the Son, so that the Son may glorify the Father. Glory is something to bestow on another, and knowledge is about knowing someone, not knowing something (vv.3,6). The spirals of meaning in John's Gospel take on

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

their widest curve yet: right back to the prologue of the Gospel (John 1.1-3), and so back to before the time that the world itself existed. Jesus is not asking here for a return to a heavenly status quo where he can forget that the experiment of the incarnation ever happened; he is praying for a new situation of increased knowledge and glory, where his disciples are included in the relationship between Father and Son, caught up in this mutual giving of glory, like so many mirrors reflecting the eternal light.

God's glory is everywhere, but it is not always visible. Sometimes a moment of glory precedes a separation, as it did for the disciples on the mountain top. Sometimes glory is hard to recognise, as it was for the disciples before the crucifixion. Sometimes glory is hidden, as it was for the suffering Christians. But the glory of God persists.

### Points to Ponder

- What do you think these three figures are doing?
- What sort of things do you 'glorify' by the way you live?
- How best can you, as a church, lift each other up?

### A sending out prayer

Go into the world to show God's glory, and may you always know God's blessing and God's peace.

Amen.



Figure 1: Alex Sojic - [art.sojic.org](http://art.sojic.org)

### Live your faith

In any situation you find yourself in this week, look for an opportunity to do something that will glorify or lift up God/Jesus.