

John 17:1-11

“Glorify thy Name”

7th Sunday af. Easter

May 24, 2020

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace from God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

[*Introduction*] Two old friends met one day after many years at their class reunion.

One attended college and now was successful in his career.

The other.

Well, he had not attended college and, well he really never had much ambition, yet he still seemed to be doing well, well enough that Newsweek magazine wrote an article about him.

Curious as to how –the college graduate asked ...

“How on earth can you be doing so well?”

The less-educated and less ambitious man replied,

"Well, one day, I opened my Bible at random, and dropped my finger on a page.

The word under my finger was oil.

So, I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush.

Then I tried the same method again,

and my finger stopped on the word gold.

So, I invested in gold, and those mines really produced.

The college graduate was so impressed

that he rushed to his hotel room,

grabbed a Gideon Bible,

flipped it open,

and dropped his finger on a page.

When he opened his eyes,

he saw that his finger rested on the words,

"Chapter Eleven."

God’s Word is a gift to us, but this is not how it works.

[*Successful*] The Bible tells us a story.

It tells us God’s story —

It tells us His-story.

In our 6th Grade Confirmation class
we spent the whole year studying the whole Bible.
We look at the big picture or the Metanarrative.
We learn the large overarching story of the Bible,
and we learn it through 66 Words —
66 Words which summarize the Bible. **[share]**

You see,
in the Bible we are told and reminded that God...
has created a beautiful world in which we live.
He sustains and provides for his world every day.
He sent his Son into our world of sin to live, to suffer, to die,
and then to rise again!

Christ is risen! ***He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!***
Everything in the Old Testament points to Jesus' death and resurrection, and
Everything in the New Testament points to Jesus' death and resurrection.
This is the big picture, and this is the success of our God shown in the Bible.
God's success is not college and a career.
God's success is not money and material goods.
God's success is you!

[Share in His Glory] You and I—we are allowed to share in his success.
We are allowed to share in his glory.

There at the font, in Baptism
God glorified us — making us his very own children through water and the Word.

FOR We share
We share in the glory of God when
we confess our sins before the throne of God
and find forgiveness there as well.
We share in the glory of God when
we read his Word
and remember his promises of love and deliverance.

God has allowed us through faith to share in his glory.
We in no way have earned or deserve that glory,
but God loves us so much that he gives it to us anyway.

1 Pet 2:9 says, ***“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”***

Take time daily to bask in the undeserved glory of God.

[Return Glory]

Since God has allowed us to share in his glory,
we want to return that glory back to Him, back to God.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John that He will no longer be in the world,
but that we are still in the world.

Now, remember that Jesus already has assured us
that we have another Counselor, the promised Holy Spirit.

Now Jesus prays that the Father will also protect His own in the world.
That all being assured, we are left in the world to do what?
What are we to do?
We are to give the glory back to God.

How do we do that?
We give glory back to the Father as Jesus did.

Phil 2:8 says, ***“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”***

Mt 28:20 tells us, ***“And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

We give glory to God by receiving his Word.
We give glory to God by receiving the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
We give glory to God by telling others about our Savior Jesus Christ.
We give glory to God by serving our neighbor.
We give glory to God by showing hospitality.

We are what people see of Jesus in our world today.
We are a reflection of his glory.

[Through Our Lives]

THE GLORY OF GOD SHINES THROUGH OUR LIVES.

It is our responsibility to be the light of the glory of Jesus Christ in our world.

People see how we treat other people, especially those closest to us.

People notice how we respond when someone has done us harm.

People notice how we respond to a crisis in our lives.

In all that we do and say, we want to reflect the glory of our Savior Jesus Christ.

But it doesn't mean that we are perfect.

We can't be perfect.

And the reality is...

We reflect the glory of the Lord best when we reflect forgiveness.

Forgiveness given, forgiveness received.

We joyfully and thankfully receive the forgiveness of God

and then without hesitation pass that forgiveness on to others.

We reflect the glory of the Lord when we show hospitality.

Hospitality given, hospitality received.

When we leave this world, God will fully glorify us with him forever in heaven.

There we will finally see and fully partake of the glory of the Father,

not as a reward but as a promise—

that is so important that I am going to say it again.

not as a reward but as a PROMISE!

God promises an eternal inheritance for all believers.

[Conclusion]

Until that day —we pray

we pray that God would use us to glorify his name

in this world

in all that we do. Yes, glorify thy name! Amen!

As followers of Christ, “Keep loving one another earnestly

And show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” AMEN! (1 Pt 4:8-9)
