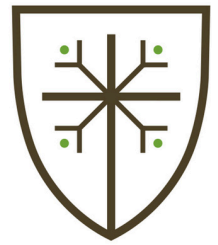


THE LAST PRAYER

A LENT SERMON SERIES

SERMON NOTES



April 6, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Glory"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

1 John 3:1-3

John 17:20-26

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sin often begins chipping away in small ways at what God has brought together. Where do you see evidence in your life and relationships - or even in your world of work, school, home, and church - of places that need the life and love of God to begin flowing through them once more to bring unity?
2. Take a moment to reflect on the entire High Priestly Prayer (printing on p. 2) and note what has stood out to you in this series. What will you take away from this prayer our Lord prayed on our behalf?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Today, Tim concluded our sermon series on Jesus's High Priestly Prayer by considering the answer to the question "What does Jesus want most for you?" The answer is that he wants you to know that you are deeply and completely loved by God.

What is it like?

Christian love and our topic from last week, Christian unity, are interconnected in Jesus' prayer. They are the two areas where Jesus uses the phrase "even as" – that our unity and our love might be the same as that of the Father and the Son. The depth and degree to which God the Father knows and loves Jesus is the very same love he has for us the moment we believe in and follow after Christ. That should be shocking to us. We are not deserving of that kind of love, but that is Christianity. That is the kind of love we become part of in Christ.

This love is inextricably linked to our oneness. We can be one "even as the Father and the Son" if we have the love of the Father and the Son in us and between us. We could experience Christian unity free from cruelty, envy, jealousy, and acting out of insecurity. It isn't just a possibility but a reality in Christ. But if the life and love of God isn't flowing through us, we die spiritually. We wither and atrophy. The evidence of that dying is disunity, disconnection, isolation, and loneliness. Sin seeks to tear apart anything unified, anything God has brought together. We begin to think "nobody understands me" or "nobody knows my pain and struggle." Or we become overly critical and picky, thinking we're too good for people. This idealized dream of community destroys us in the same way as no community at all. This is the power of sin exerting itself upon us. Only in unity and community bound together in the love of God can we truly live.

When does it happen?

In Jesus' prayer, he begins imagining into the future. He wants his people to be with him. He is thinking of the sheer glorious magnitude of the celebration of his homecoming to the right hand of the Father and he wants us to be with him. He wants us to see the full weight of his glory in heaven, not because he needs and vain, but because only when we see Jesus as he truly is will we really, truly understand all that he gave up for us. Only then will we know how much he loves us.

Jesus longs for us to see him in glory, in a new world, because we were built for that world. Our experience with love in this world makes it painfully evident that we were built for another. Life with or without love in this world is misery because we have not yet come to where the existence of love is exactly as we need it to be.

This leaves us with hope, hope for Jesus' return when we will see him and we will come into this new world. But 1 John 3 shows us that we have more than hope. We have hope that drives us into action now to change our lives, to purify them to prepare us for that moment.

Tim left us with three practical actions through which God's grace, his very presence, are made known to us – Scripture, Sacrament, and self-control. Open your Bible and read it. Be in worship where we experience together glimpses and shadows of what it will be like to be in that place where Jesus is. And finally, live a disciplined life. Say "no" to that which kills us and "yes" to that which gives life.

April 6, 2025

JOHN 17

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ "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. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ 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. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."