

“Where True Glory Is Found” – Pr Jim Sprengle Lent Midweek 5 – March 25, 2026

- I. **John 12:27-28** – ²⁷ “Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.
²⁸ Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”
- II. **Perhaps you’ve seen a famous** athlete who has the game of his life.
 - a. It was one of the greatest performances ever, and the crowd is chanting his name as reporters surround him right after the game... asking him to talk about the game.
 - i. With a big smile he says, “First, I want to give glory to God.”
 1. Giving glory to God sounds humble and right when we hear someone lead with that...
 - ii. But then he proceeds to spend 5 minutes bragging about *his* effort, *his* training, *his* leadership skills, and the preparation that went into *his* awesome performance... basically letting everyone know why he’s the best thing since sliced bread.
 - iii. He makes it clear that the glory he gives to God is not as important as the glory he wants for himself.
 - b. Any one of us can be guilty of the same thing...
 - i. We say, “Thanks be to God,” and then quickly explain how hard we worked to get to this point.
 - ii. We confess that God is in control, yet we often speak and act as though the future rests entirely on our shoulders...
 - iii. We confess that God deserves the glory, yet we often prefer that some of it reflect back onto us.
 - c. The problem with trying to take glory for our own starts with God’s First Commandment - “You shall have no other gods.”
 - i. God forbids us from worshiping idols... and that includes glory.
 1. We are not to trust in anything more than God and Him alone.
 2. God doesn’t want our success, or comfort, or our image, or even our sanctified life to be the most important thing.
 3. If we are looking for security... or glory in these things, we are using them as an idol rather than trusting in God.
 - d. Not only that, but the Second Commandment says, “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.”
 - i. We misuse His name not only by swearing falsely, but when we don’t acknowledge in thanks and praise that all good things have come from Him alone.
 - ii. We misuse His name when we take credit for what God does.
 - e. In a similar way, the First Petition of the Lord’s Prayer is “Hallowed be Thy name.”

- i. Of course, God's name is holy in itself, but we pray that it would be kept holy among us.
 - ii. That happens, as Luther teaches, when His Word is taught in truth and purity and we live according to it.
 - iii. That means our lives either honor His name - or dishonor it.
 - iv. When we dishonor God's name, people around us might think, "If that's what a Christian looks like, what kind of God do they follow?"
- III. **Now, this is where a short Latin phrase from Psalm 115:1 helps us.**
 - a. The choir from Trinity Lutheran High School in Bend sang this phrase in their song last week: *Non Nobis Domine...* or "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory."
 - b. Christians have sung these words for centuries... including after victories and big events... and sometimes after battles...
 - i. And the point is very simple – Glory does not belong to us – it belongs to God alone.
 - c. But Psalm 115 also asks a hard question: "Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?'"
 - i. In other words, when God's people live like God is nowhere to be found in their lives, or when they glory in themselves, the world around them sees this and doubts.
 - ii. We tear down His name not only by our words, but by our pride.
 - d. Now listen to Jesus in John 12:27-28.
 - i. He's not at the beginning of His ministry, but it's coming to an end.
 - ii. The crowds just welcomed Him to Jerusalem, shouting "Hosanna" to the King... and the tension is rising... as the cross is no longer far off.
 - iii. He says, "Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."
 - e. Those words are *Non Nobis Domine* in flesh and blood.
 - i. Jesus could have prayed for an out... or that He wouldn't suffer... or He could have fought to protect His reputation and honor...
 - ii. Instead, He prays that the Father's name would be glorified - even if that glory means suffering.
 - iii. And then we hear the Father answering from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
 - 1. Notice where true glory is found... Not in miracles alone... Not in crowds or spectacular victories...
 - 2. True glory is found in obedience... and sacrifice... true glory is found in the cross.
 - f. Most of us run from that kind of glory.... We much prefer things like strength, success, and recognition.

- i. We want a God who wins the victory with a huge statement... we want God to protect us from shame and trials.... we prefer a faith that makes us look better to others... not weak.
- g. But the theology of the cross tells us something different.
 - i. God reveals His greatest glory under weakness... and He often shows His power through suffering.
 - ii. He shows His love in the midst of rejection.
 - iii. On Good Friday, the world saw failure... yet God the Father saw faithfulness.
 - iv. While the world saw defeat... the Father saw the fulfillment of His promise.
- h. You see, that's why our pride is so dangerous... because when we try to avoid the cross... when we refuse to repent... when we defend ourselves at any cost... when we measure our blessings by comfort alone – then we are denying the very place God chooses to reveal His Holy name.
 - i. Where true glory is found is not keeping ourselves safe and sound... It's where Christ gives Himself.

IV. **Jesus didn't pray, "Father, glorify My name,"** He prayed, "Father, glorify Your name."

- a. Jesus went to the cross for you, and for me, and for all people... and the Father's name was glorified in the greatest sacrifice of all.
 - i. God didn't just ignore sin... He paid the price for it... whether it was pride... or idolatry... or misusing His name... all of it was put on our Savior on the cross in a great exchange... our sins for His righteousness.
- b. The Father glorified His name by following through on His promise to save sinners... and in a strange turn of events... that glory now shines in us.
 - i. In Baptism, the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit was placed on us as we were baptized into God's name.
 - ii. He claims us... forgives us... and He drowns the old Adam... along with the pride and the self-glory and the idols... and He raises us to new life every single day.
 - iii. Where true glory is found is not in what we accomplish for God, but in what God has done and is currently doing for us.
 - 1. As we make the sign of the cross, we remember our Baptism and the name we bear for the world to see.
 - 2. As we confess our sins, we bow our heads without excuse or defense.
 - 3. As we receive absolution, it's God's promise that He forgives.
- c. So, when the choir sang *Non Nobis Domine*, we heard more than a Latin phrase sung in beautiful harmony... we heard the confession of the Church of God – not to us... not to our effort... not to our image... but only to Your name give glory.

- d. And where is that glory found?
 - i. It's found in our troubled Savior who chose the cross.
 - ii. It's found in our Father who answered from heaven.
 - iii. And it's found in the water and the Word that claimed us.
- e. Praise and glory be to His holy name. Amen