

March 29, 2026
Palm/Passion Sunday

“His Glory”

Philippians 2:5-11

In chapter 12 of the Gospel according to St. John, after Andrew and Philip tell Jesus that some Greeks wish to see Him, he responds by saying, *“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”*

I imagine the hearts of Andrew and Philip and any other disciples who heard it jumped for joy at these words. The corrupt spiritual leaders of the Jews were plotting to kill Jesus. The Romans had occupied the Promised Land and oppressed God’s people. The disciples had witnessed Jesus’ divine power in many spectacular ways. Finally, Jesus was going to rise up and show the world His power. He was going to defeat His enemies, bring about right worship, claim His people and establish His kingdom. Finally, Jesus was about to be glorified!

We just heard what that looked like, and it was not at all what Christ’s followers expected. It was horrific and absolutely the complete opposite of what any human being would call glory. It was humiliation in the sense of being made low, made the lowest, unto death itself.

It’s ironic. If you remember all the way back to the beginning, this sin problem all came about because of the serpent’s temptation to Adam and Eve, *“...when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...”* They were seeking to glorify themselves—to be more than the creatures God created them to be. Now God’s glory is to, in steadfast love and mercy, make Himself less, make Himself nothing, in order to make right what human glory-seeking had destroyed.

We would do well to make note of that irony. We can be real glory-seekers ourselves, and that’s not good. Maybe we all don’t aspire to the glory of greatness in celebrity, power or such things, but each one of us likes to put ourselves first. Maybe not always, but in certain situations we all do it; think more of ourselves and less of some other. Jesus never did that and neither should we.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

This agonizing work of Christ for us is front and center today in worship. Our goal as Christians is to keep it front and center each and every day of our lives. His glory is our salvation. His glory is what saves us from condemnation and eternal death. Next to Him, we have no glory, we deserve no glory and we seek no glory but His.

We look at Jesus’ selfless love for us in His sacrificial work and we think Paul’s call for us to emulate such love is impossible for us. On one level I guess that’s true because of the sinful nature that still clings to us in this life. But on a greater level, the reality into which we are baptized into Christ, this indeed is us. Paul says so—the mind of selfless love *“which is yours in Christ Jesus...”*

This is accomplished in us as we keep this story of Christ, this glory of Christ, front and center every day.

When you receive a blessing of some sort, give the glory to God, because you’ve received that as lagniappe on top of the greatest blessing of eternal salvation. If you do your

vocation well and receive thanks and praise for it, give the glory to God for placing you there to serve Him. If your work serving your neighbor brings monetary rewards, give thanks and be sure to use that wealth to His glory, returning the firstfruits to the Lord. When the Lord places someone in need before you, give Jesus glory by imitating His love, His compassion and even His sacrifice if that's what He is calling for.

When you fail, when you seek your own glory and turn something of this world or even your own self into an idol that is placed above and outside your Creator's will for you, drop to your knees and seek His glory, His cross, in repentance. Turn from that love of the world and the love of yourself in it and plead the mercy of God for your error. Then receive Christ's glory—the blood-bought forgiveness of your sins.

This is the mind you have in Christ. Yes, it is a struggle now, but it will be perfected one day. Don't waste time seeking what is called glory in the world today. It's all a façade because it's all passing away, and you don't want to go along with it.

Live in the glory of Christ which is humility, sacrifice, compassion, service...steadfast love. Keep the glory of His cross front and center of your mind always, knowing that by His grace through the Holy Spirit, you dwell in that glory today and forever. Be willing to follow Christ, living in humble love for all, knowing that His glory was to do this for you unto death and, having most certainly accomplished your salvation, He now reigns in glory above all.

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Trust that in following Him, you follow Him all the way, to dwell before His throne, giving Him glory without end.

Amen.