



WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 a.m.

GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

WARM WELCOME

May 24, 2020

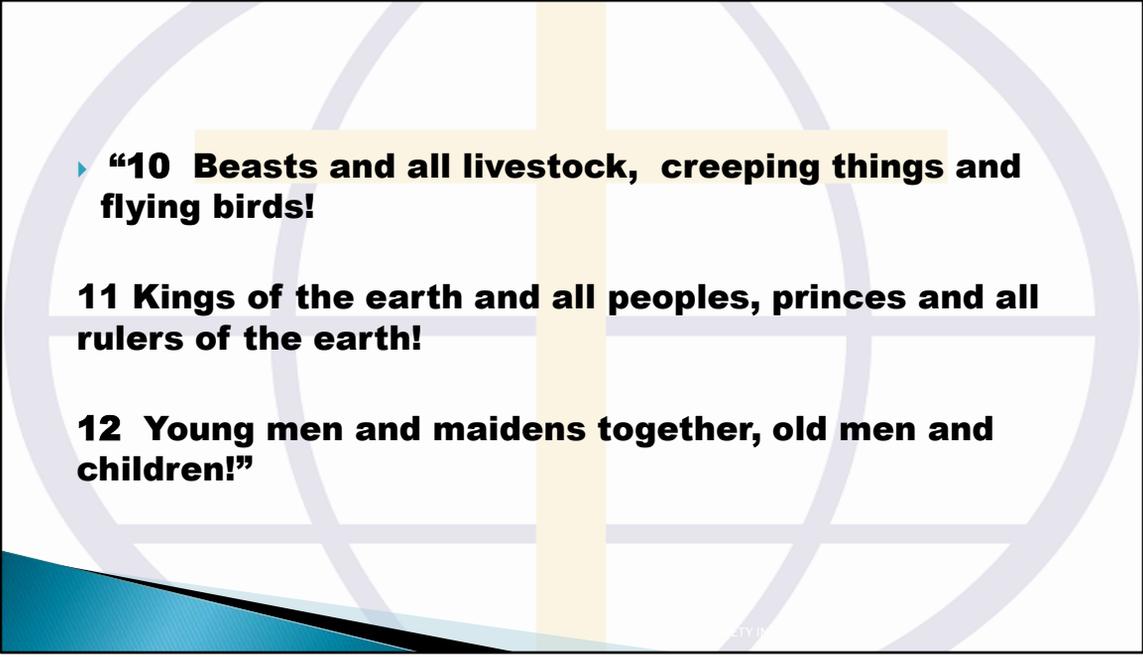
ORDER OF SERVICES

- 1) **Call to Worship**
- 2) **2 OPENING HYMNS**
- 3) **OPENING PRAYER: Mann
Gideon Kananiro**
- 4) **SPEAKING OF LIFE**
- 5) **ANNOUNCEMENT**
- 6) **SERMON: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
EVIDENCE OF HIS WORK**
- 7) **Scripture reading: Richard and
Patricia Christie**
- 8) **Communion**
- 9) **HYMM**
- 10) **CLOSING PRAYER –Esther
Farrell**
- 11) **BENEDICTION**



CALL TO WORSHIP
PS 147:7-13

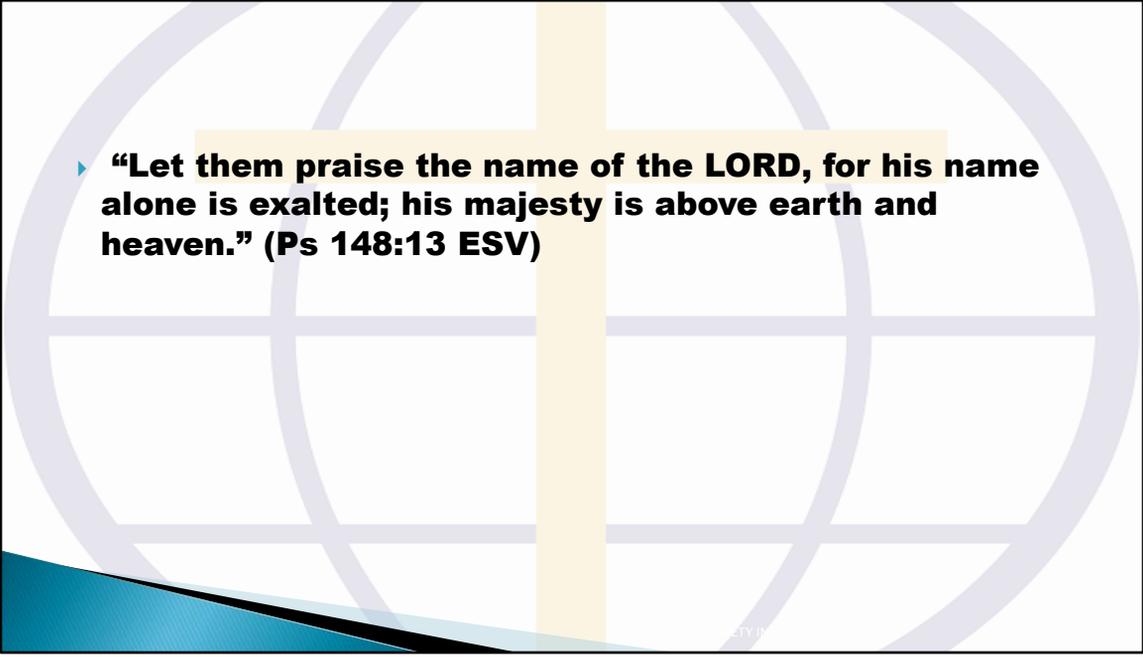
- ▶ **“7 ¶ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps**
- ▶ **8 fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**
- ▶ **9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!”**

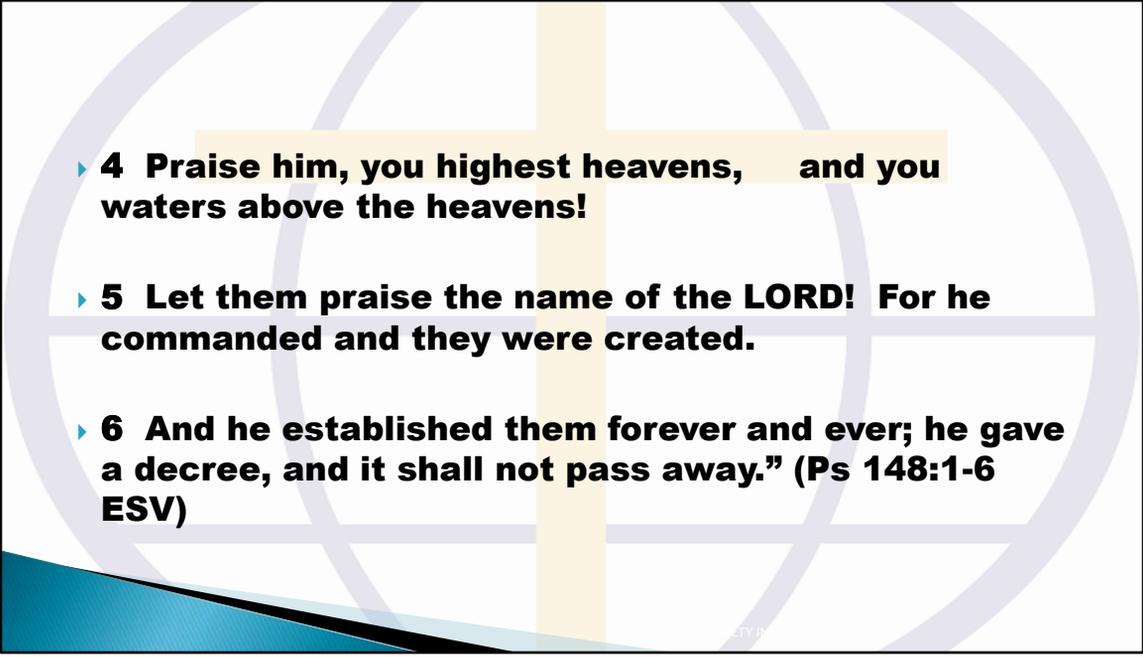


▶ **“10 Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**

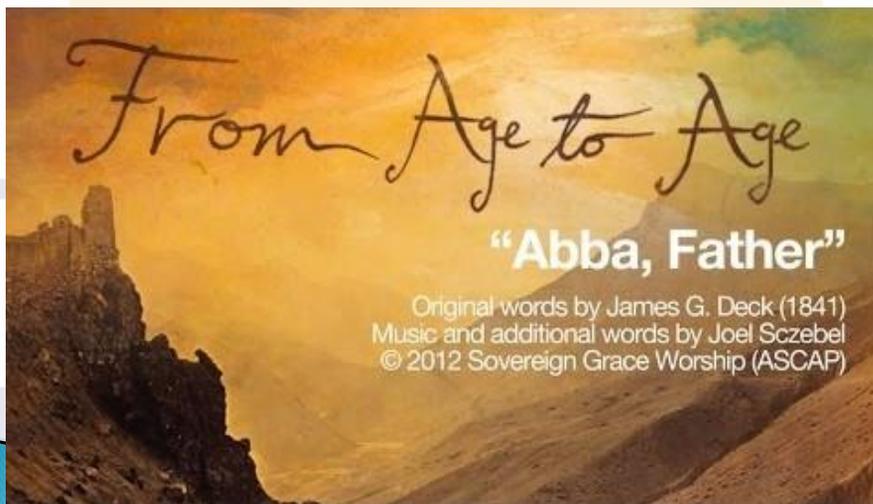
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children!”

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- ▶ **“Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.” (Ps 148:13 ESV)**

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- ▶ **4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**
 - ▶ **5 Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.**
 - ▶ **6 And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.” (Ps 148:1-6 ESV)**

"Abba, Father" Sung by Devon Kauflin.



CRY OF MY HEART by Vineyard music



**DOES GOD HAVE A CLUE WHAT IS LIKE TO BE
YOU?**





Mr. Bruce Coulson – 101 on May 25. Card.

bible Study next Thursday

Ravi Zacharias

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) says that everyone will be able to join them online next week for a streaming service celebrating the life of the beloved apologist.

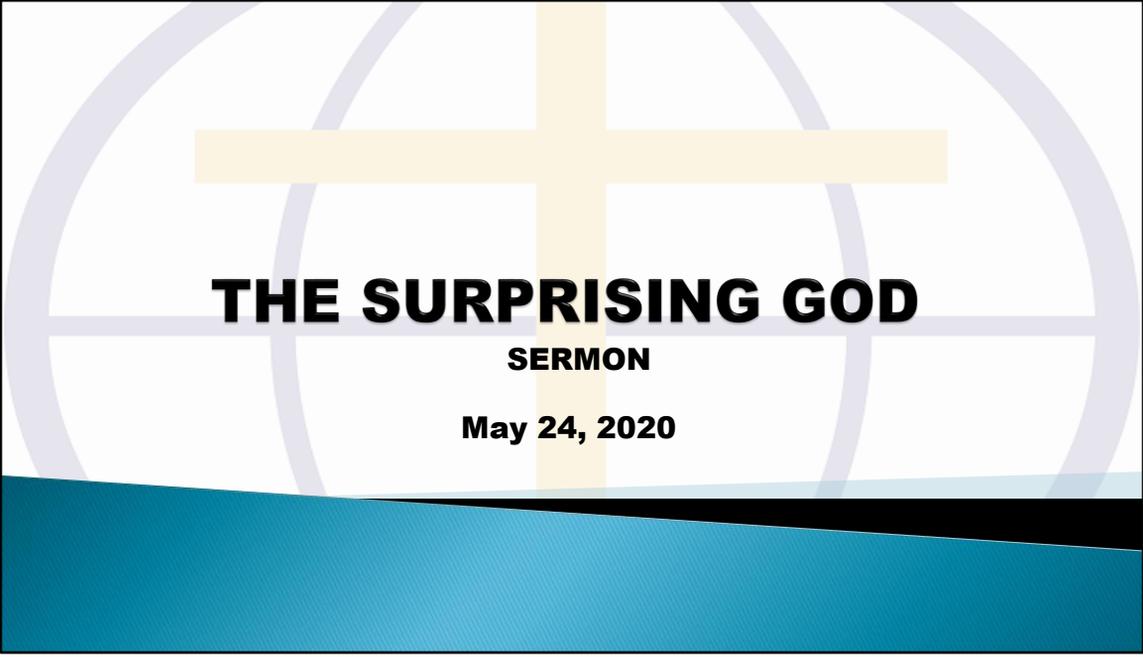
On Friday, May 29, at 11:00 am Eastern Time, RZIM will be streaming a memorial service to honour the late apologist, Ravi Zacharias, on Facebook and Youtube. The service will include tributes to Ravi by those who knew him well. This will include performances by Christian artists Matt Redman and Lecrae.

RZIM President Michael Ramsden will be sharing, alongside former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow, and other family and friends.

Obituary:

<https://chvnradio.com/christian-news/obituary-ravi-zacharias-1946-2020>

Invite those who have left and are not going anywhere.
Invite a friend who is not attending anywhere.



THE SURPRISING GOD

SERMON

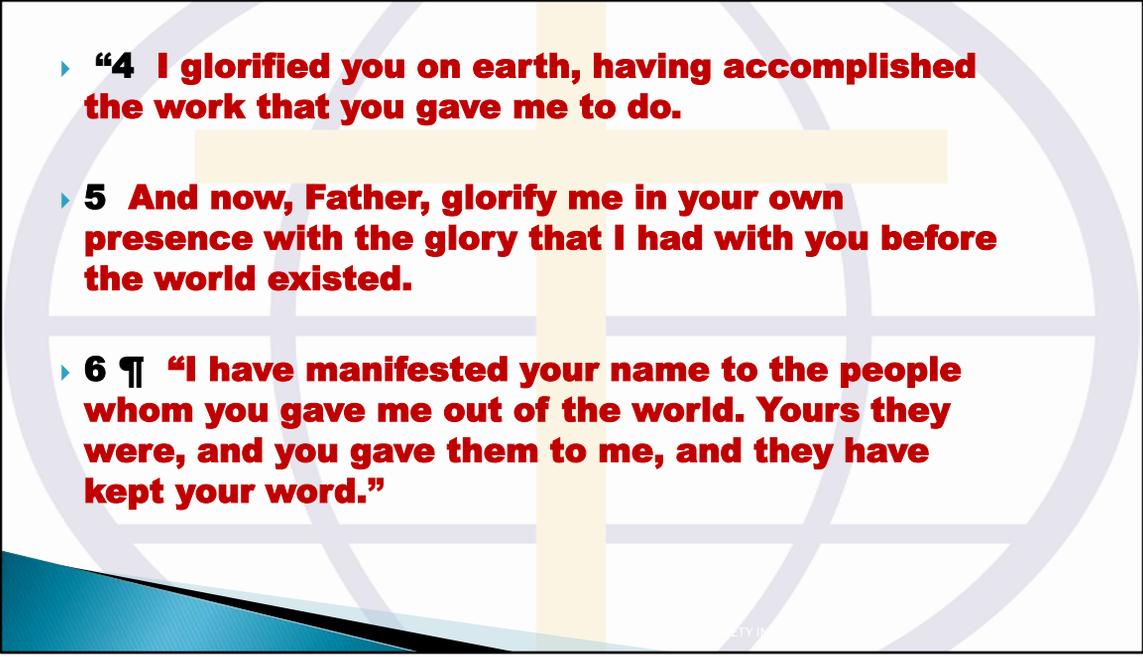
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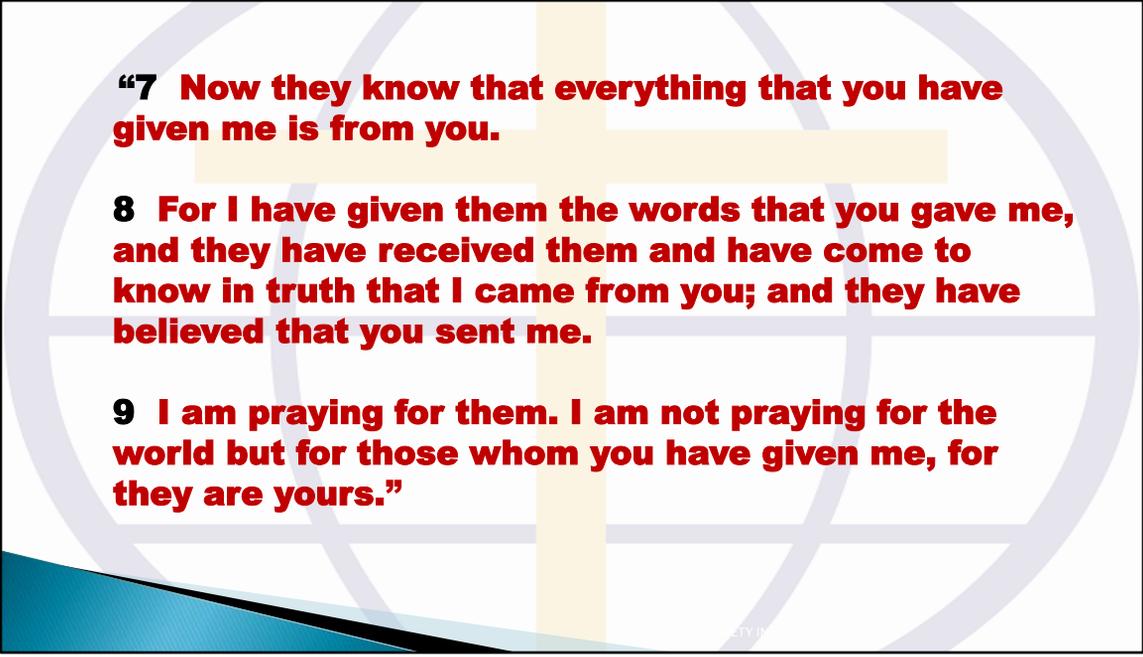
SCRIPTURE READING John 17:1-26 (ESV)

“1 ¶ 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.

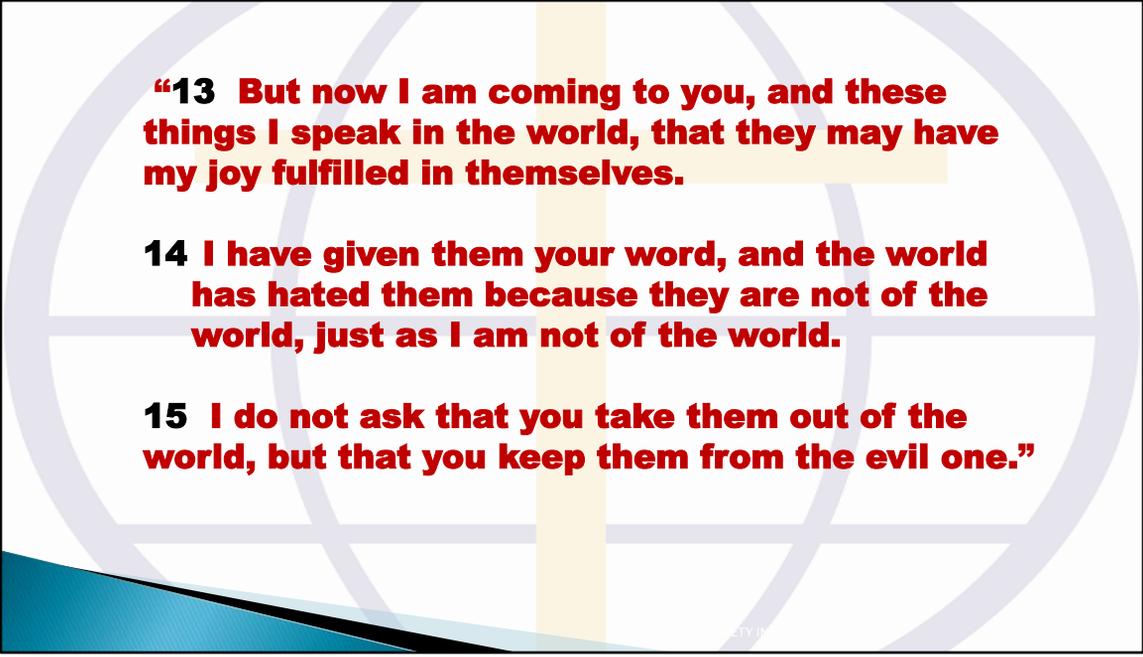
8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

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.

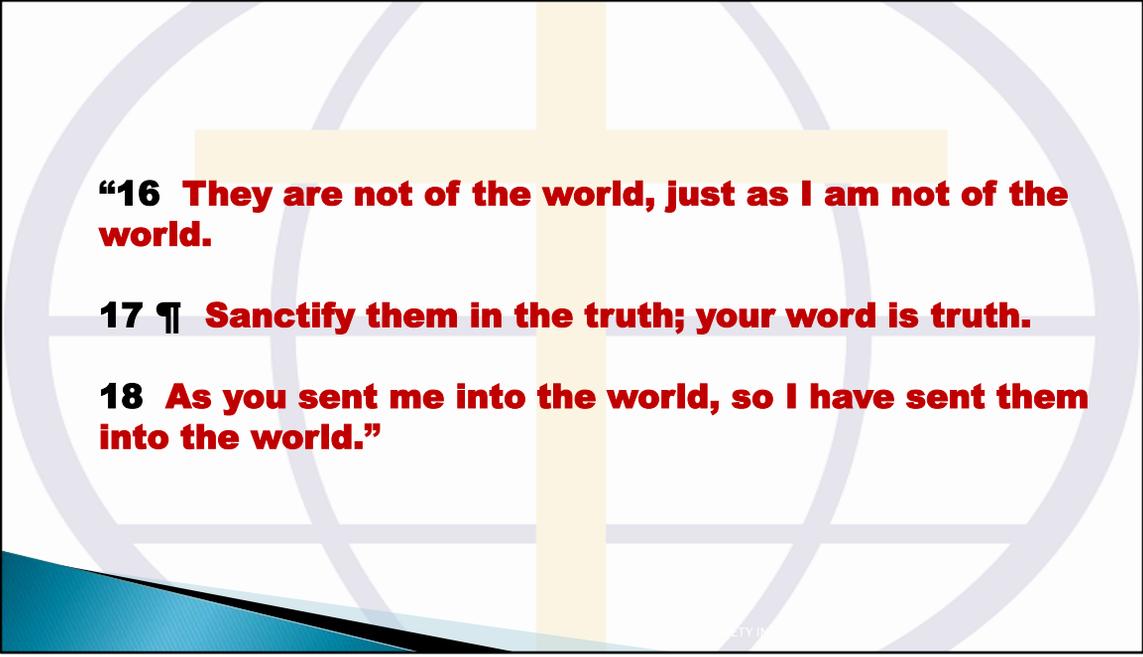
12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”

The background features a stylized globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. A vertical yellow cross is superimposed over the globe. The text is centered within this graphic.

“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.

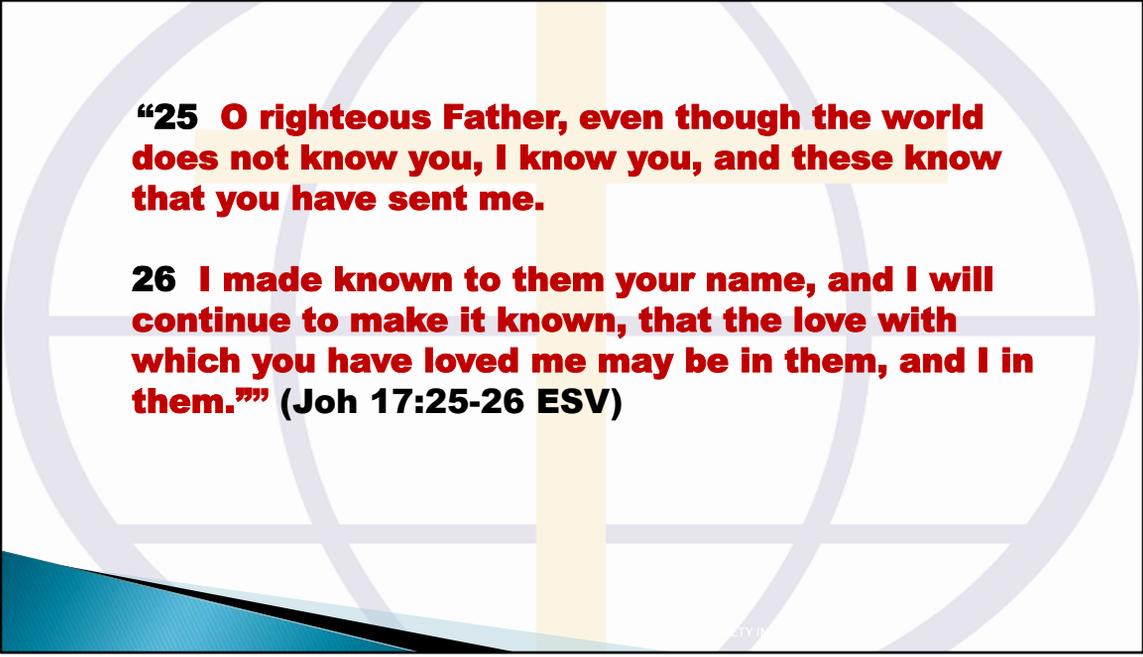
20 ¶ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

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,

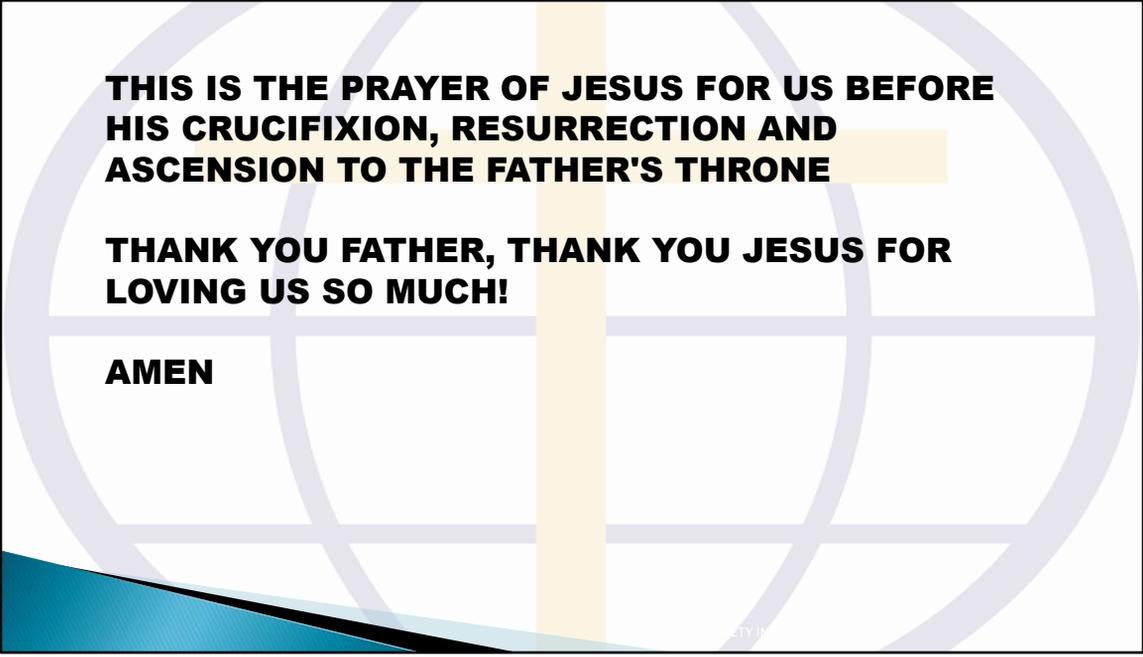
23 ¶ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

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.” (Joh 17:25-26 ESV)



**THIS IS THE PRAYER OF JESUS FOR US BEFORE
HIS CRUCIFIXION, RESURRECTION AND
ASCENSION TO THE FATHER'S THRONE**

**THANK YOU FATHER, THANK YOU JESUS FOR
LOVING US SO MUCH!**

AMEN

Today, many churches celebrate the glorious ascension of Jesus to God's heavenly throne as the perfect human being representing all of us.

In this sermon, we are going to consider the implication of his ascension to the heavenly throne as well as the prayer he prayed before facing the ordeal of his brutal death on the cross.

The word of God is so rich that we cannot go into all the details of a particular Scripture passage in one sermon. Hopefully, this will help to wet our appetite to meditate and appreciate even more what Jesus has done for us.

All of Jesus' life on earth is important:

- His coming down from heaven to earth in our flesh and broken humanity
- His baptism and ministry
- His crucifixion;
- His resurrection
- And his ascension to God's throne in a human glorified body.

If Jesus had died on the cross without the resurrection, his death would have been

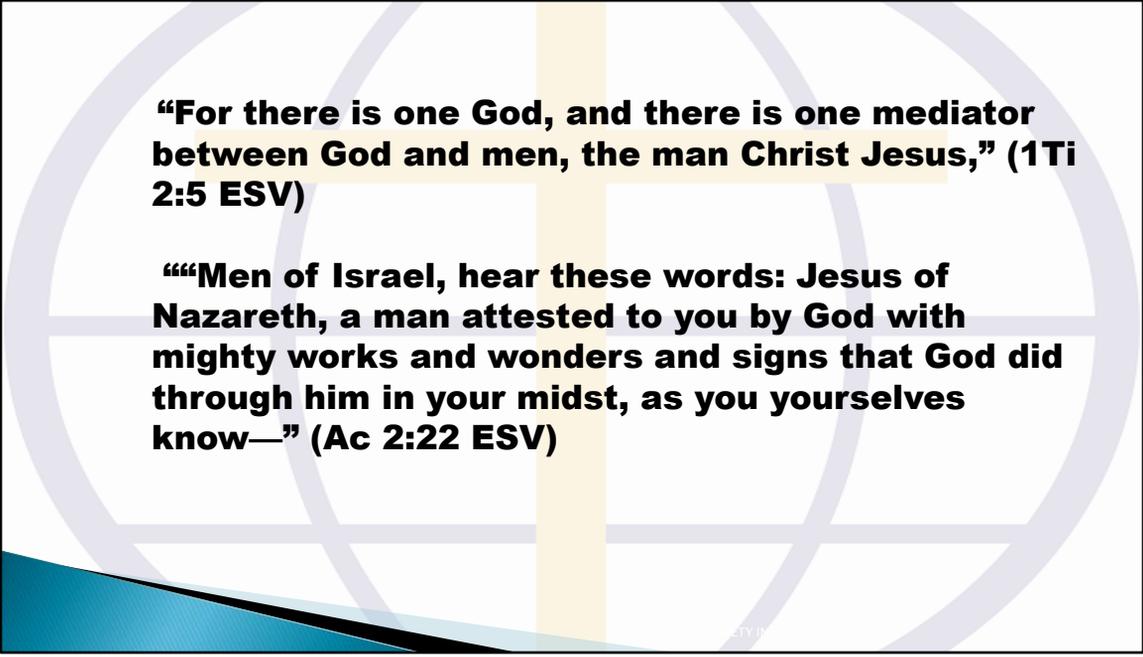
futile.

If he had not bodily ascended to heaven, he could not represent all of us.

Jesus came down from heaven to earth for us so that we would be able to participate as humans in the eternal godly relationship of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus is able to represent all of us because he took on our humanity and lived fully as a human being guided by the fullness of the Holy Spirit without ever sinning once—always doing the Father's will.

There are numerous places in the Bible where Jesus' humanity is written about. The following are two examples. Now we need to realize that even if Jesus is fully man, he does not stop being fully God. In fact, he has these two natures undivided in his person. (Next slide)



“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,” (1Ti 2:5 ESV)

““Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—” (Ac 2:22 ESV)

These are encouraging Scriptures aren't they?

Before the very throne of God, we have the perfect man in heaven interceding for us all the time.

Mr. Ted Johnston wrote: “This reality was affirmed once and for all in Jesus' bodily ascension to heaven where the God-man Jesus is in perfect, non-ending communion with the Father and the Spirit. Thus the ascension is not some sort of minor footnote to our salvation. It is an integral, vital part of it. Jesus saves us by ascending -- taking our human nature (which he continues to bear as the now glorified human person “the man Christ Jesus” -- [1 Tim. 2:5](#)) with him to the Father's throne in heaven. As Dick Eugenio notes, “Here we see salvation in terms of both the redemptive descent of the Son of God through the incarnation (including the virgin birth) and the redemptive ascent of the incarnate Son of God in the person of Jesus in the resurrection and ascension.”

It is vital to understand that the bodily-human presence of Jesus in the incarnation and ascension establishes the real meaning and interaction between God and humanity. Jesus' bodily ascension vindicates our humanity, rather than demolishing

it. Jesus did not shed his humanity at the resurrection or at the ascension (two erroneous ideas often taught by those who see salvation as an external transaction accomplished solely or primarily at the cross). Indeed, there is now a human being (the human person Jesus) seated in heaven at God's right hand ("right hand" being emblematic of authority and glory -- see [Romans 8:34](#)).

Here is the amazing, glorious truth: our Mediator, Advocate and High Priest, as human and God (one person, two natures), represents us in heaven. Therefore, our future is not empty! Jesus has gone ahead of us, and our future is bound up with his. (from <http://thesurprisinggodblog.gci.org/2020/05/ascension.html>)

Now let's consider what Jesus prayed for before his death on the cross. (next slide)

SHARING THEIR GLORY

- ▶ **“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,”** (Joh 17:1 ESV)**

There are 3 parts to his prayer:

- 1 – Jesus prays to the Father for himself;
- 2 – Jesus prays for the disciples that were with him at the time;
- 3 – Jesus prays for his disciples who would come later after his death, resurrection and ascension. He prays for us.

(NEXT SLIDE)

WHAT DO WE NOTICE IN JESUS PRAYER TO HIS FATHER?

- ▶ **1 “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.**

1- Jesus prays to his Father! Calling him a Father implies a very intimate relationship. Jesus knows his Father well. He has lived in the triune relationship of the eternal God for all eternity – (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

2- He then asked his Father to glorify him so that in turn Jesus would glorify the Father. God is glorious. Within the triune God, the three persons of the Trinity do not keep glory to themselves. They share it.

His glory rubs off on people, if we can use that word. Remember when Moses met God at Mount Sinai and was given the 10 Commandments, the central point of the Old Covenant, when he descended, his face was radiating with glory.

In Exodus 34:29-35, we read that whenever Moses went before the Lord to speak with him, he would come out and his face was shining. The people of Israel were afraid to come near him so he had to put a veil over his face!

The good news is that God's glory is going to be shared with his people. We will see this in fullness at the resurrection!

3- We also read that Jesus was given authority over all flesh for the purpose of giving eternal life!

4- What is eternal life?

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (Joh 17:3 ESV).

Unfortunately, eternal life is often pictured as going to heaven. It often has the idea that the greatest bliss will be seeing our loved relatives and friends.

It is often pictured as continuing doing in heaven what we enjoyed here on earth. For example, I heard of a famous hockey players going to heaven and who would continue to play hockey. This can apply to any famous sports figure.

Or sometimes heaven may be seen as a place to be avoided. Who wants to play harp for the rest of eternity?

There are many false ideas.

That is not what eternal life is all about. It is so much more than that. Eternal life is knowing God the Father and his Son who was sent to the earth to rescue us from the hopeless state of death.

Eternal life has to do with an intimate relationship with God through the man Jesus by the Holy Spirit! It has to do with us becoming the bride of Christ, an intimate, close, cherished and perfect relationship that we will experience for all eternity!

Marriage is a type of the relationship between Christ and the church. In a marriage, in this intimate relationship, we grow in knowing one another like no other relationship. My wife knows me more than anybody else and I know my wife more than anybody else! We value and hold one another dear more and more as we journey together in this life.

The eternal relationship with God has to do with knowing God and being known by God. Marital relationships are the most intimate relationship that a man and a woman can have. On this earth, they are not perfect. In the fullness of the resurrection, our relationship as the bride of Jesus will be perfect.

On the human plane, when a man and a woman love one another that relationship grows. We get to appreciate one another more and more.

In the infinity of time, the relationship with God in Jesus will pale into insignificance

the bliss and the joy we can experience on this earth. This is what God has in reserve for us.

JESUS THEN PRAYS FOR HIS IMMEDIATE DISCIPLES

- ▶ **“6 ¶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.**
- ▶ **7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;” (Joh 17:6-7 NRSV)**

Jesus says that he has made the Father’s name known to the disciples who were given to him as a gift!

This is a very humbling statement for the first disciples as well for us. We are gifts of the Father to Jesus!

Do we see ourselves that way? Jesus sees us as gifts! We may not see ourselves that way but that is how our loving God perceives and identifies us.

We belong both to God the Father and to Jesus.

Jesus goes further and says that because we belong to the Father and to him, he is glorified in us.

Jesus knows that he is going back to the Father.

Prior to his crucifixion, Jesus was not praying for the world but specifically for his disciples. He knew he would die to undo the sin of the first Adam and remove the curse that hung over humanity.

He prayed for them because he knew that because they belong to him the world does not like them. He uses the strong wording, “The world has hated them because they are not of the world”. Following Jesus, becoming his disciple is not the way to become popular in this world. If we think that most people will like us because we are followers of Jesus, we are sadly mistaken. There are people who will like us and people who will not. Some people will want to do away with us.

For example, Ravi Zacharias funeral service will be live streamed worldwide on May 29 at 11 o'clock Eastern time. He will be honoured by Christians and by people outside the church all over the world. However, that is not the whole story. He regularly received death threats because he was pointing people to Jesus.

Why does the world hate them?

Because they have the word of the Father spoken to them by Jesus.

He is praying that as they are sent into the world that they would be protected from the evil one.

“And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they may also be sanctified in truth.”

(Joh 17:19 NRSV)

**Sanctified = To make holy, consecrate, sanctify (Strong’s Concordance)
= In Greek, “may be set apart (for holy service to God – [ESV foot note].**

Disciples are to abide, continue, remain in the word and by doing so, to be set free by the truth! [John 8:31-32].

Disciples are sanctified, set apart by Jesus himself. He is our Sanctification! As Jesus sanctified or consecrated himself, so in Jesus we are set apart!

God sanctifies his people anywhere and in the most difficult situations.

Recently, I was reading the story of about a man called Basil who lived during the time of Joseph Stalin reign. Stalin was the premier of the Soviet Union until 1953. He was a brutal ruler who persecuted Christians.

While Basil was in prison, they had to report to the guards every morning. There was a 2 to 5-minute intervals until the soldiers arrived. During that time, he preached the gospel during that brief window. So he learned to speak very loudly and quickly. It took him several days to deliver one message about the good news of the gospel. He offered hope to the other prisoners. His story is an amazing story. God works in the most unlikely and darkest places.

I recently met a man who came to know Jesus while in prison. His life of crime has changed as he realized that his drug taking, his years in prisons could have completely ruined his life. He is thankful that he still has a sound mind. that he is sane. He told me, **'I know Jesus lives'**.

If you can, I would encourage you to pray for him. It is very difficult for him to find work because of his prison record. In his 20s, he got tattooed all over his arms and neck. This is another challenge because when people look at him, they too often think of the worse. They have difficulty believing that his is a changed life.

You see God's work is on the inside as he gives us a new life when we come to faith in him.

Then he prayed for us specifically.

[next slide]

JESUS PRAYS SPECIFICALLY FOR US

- ▶ **“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.”**
(Joh 17:20-21 ESV)

A reflection that we believe in Jesus is through our word.

When Jesus speaks of being one, he does not speak of oneness as the world does.

This is not like the Eastern belief which teaches that we all become one with everything in nature because God is in everything and not separate from his creation. In fact some believe that God is both the creator and the created because everything is an outgrowth of him.

When Jesus spoke about oneness, he spoke of the oneness that exists in the Trinity where the three persons of the Godhead are one yet distinct. Their oneness does not sacrifice their distinctiveness or individuality.

Jesus clarifies what he means by this oneness.

“21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they may also 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,” (Joh 17:21-22 ESV)

Being one in God does not mean that we will become God or that we will lose our identity. In fact, we will all retain our humanity in the man Jesus. We will also keep our individuality!

In this wonderful relationship, we will experience the perfect love of God which has existed for all eternity.

At one time, because of the work God is doing in us, the world will know that Jesus has been sent to the world. The world will know that we are loved by God the Father with the same love that God the Father loves Jesus!

Jesus tells the Father in his prayer that we know that Jesus has been sent to this world by the Father. He also says that as he knows the Father has sent him, we also know that Jesus has been sent by the Father.

He also says in his prayer that we will grow in that relationship as he continues to reveal who the Father is as we journey here in our life on earth!

What Jesus says that the love of the Father will be poured in our hearts and Jesus will also be in us!

We serve a surprising and amazing God!

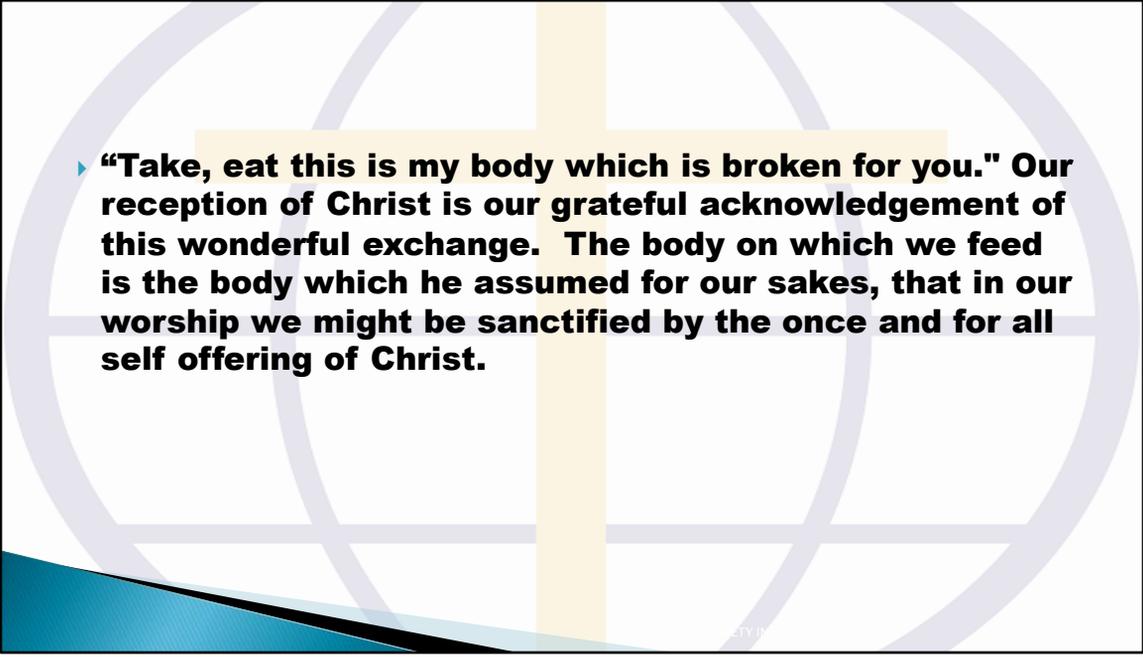
We can thank him that that he gave us the sacrament of communion where we are invited us to his table we are figuratively we eat of him. We are reminded of the sacrificial love he has for us, for the forgiveness of our sins and hope that he holds for each and every one of us as we look forward to his long-expected return!

Let us pray

COMMUNION

(From: WORSHIP COMMUNITY IN THE TRIUNE GOD OF GRACE, James B. Torrance
page 89-90)

- ▶ **Christ took what was ours that he might give us what is his. He takes our broken sinful humanity and cleanses it by his self sanctifying life of communion with the Father, his obedience, death and resurrection. And now he comes back to us in the power of the Spirit to give himself to us in an act where he gives us back our humanity now renewed in him, saying:**

- 
- ▶ **“Take, eat this is my body which is broken for you.” Our reception of Christ is our grateful acknowledgement of this wonderful exchange. The body on which we feed is the body which he assumed for our sakes, that in our worship we might be sanctified by the once and for all self offering of Christ.**

THE BREAD

“23 ¶ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”” (1Co 11:23-24 ESV)

THE FRUIT OF THE VINE

- ▶ **“25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**
- ▶ **26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1Co 11:25-26 ESV)**

MercyMe - I Can Only Imagine (Lyrics)



BENEDICTION

- ▶ **“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.” (Ga 6:18 ESV)**

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