



After saying this, Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

*Father,
the hour has come:
glorify your Son
so that your Son may glorify you;
so that, just as you have given him power over all humanity,
he may give eternal life
to all those you have entrusted to him.
And eternal life is this:
to know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
I have glorified you on earth
by finishing the work that you gave me to do.
Now, Father, glorify me
with that glory I had with you
before ever the world existed.*

John 17:1-5

To see God in the act of computing

Monday 3rd week before Lent

These words are John's reflection as he sought to penetrate the mystery of Jesus. For John, the cross is the revelation of God's glory: it is not the resurrection that is the glory but the cross, for it is the cross that illuminates the nature of love and grace. When we put this in the context of the previous chapter and the issue of the revelation through the Spirit, the message is that everything we may understand about God is shaped and determined by the grace and love shown in glory on the cross.

To what end was this glory shown? To bring *eternal life*. Eternal life in John does not mean 'everlasting life' or immortality in the sense of life going on in heaven after death. It is life as experienced now, not at some future time or only after death. It is qualitative not a quantitative: it is knowing that every part of life is suffused with love and grace, even the tragedies and sufferings and times of loss. That is why John defined eternal life as *to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent*. To see God in the act of typing a word into the computer, in making a business transaction or a political decision, in every moment of every human endeavour and relationship, this is to live the eternal life.