

March 25, 2012  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...” Today’s Gospel

One of the most favorite words that Saint John uses in his Gospel is the word “glory.”

John uses it often in his gospel and the word “glory” also often appears in the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass.

The best translation of this word “glory” in English is “to be beautiful.”

Glory means beauty.

And each one of us at the very beginning of our lives began in glory.

When we were tiny babies, when we were just born from our mothers’ wombs,  
The doctor lifted us up for all to see: and everyone there said,

“Beautiful!”

And beautiful meant “Glory.”

We were glorious!

However, just before that moment, our mothers experienced some birth pains.

And each of us also cried.

So first came our pain, and then came glory when we were lifted up.

Today, in the Gospel, Jesus tells us that for himself, he must be lifted up on the cross and this will be painful--but after he has been lifted up on the cross, he will be filled with glory and he will draw all who love and follow him to himself.

That glory we will celebrate at Easter: his glorious resurrection.

But now during Lent, we think and pray about his sufferings on the cross.

So today, Jesus is telling his friends that the hour is coming for the Son of Man—that’s Jesus—to be made beautiful—to be glorified.

And so we realize that in our own lives too, we have and do and will experience suffering, but our suffering will someday turn into glory.

And so we pray:

“We adore you O Christ and we bless you because by your holy cross you have saved the world.”

And we pray the Glory Prayer: “Glory is to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.”