



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
Sunday 16th May 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Maundy Thursday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon *Cf. Ps 26: 7-9*

A: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: These are the days of waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. On Thursday we celebrated the Ascension, when Jesus bade farewell to his friends and went back to the Father: even as he did so he made a promise, that he would be with them to the end of the ages. We trust that he is here with us, as we gather in his name this Sunday, to welcome him once more. Joyfully celebrating the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and praying for the renewal of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we praise God's glory as we say:

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For

you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord, so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race is with you in your glory, may experience, as he promised, until the end of the world, his abiding presence among us. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading *John 17:11-19*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their

sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Our Gospel this Sunday is part of the so-called "priestly prayer" of Jesus at the Last Supper: in it, he prays for us – the Church – the night before his Passion. This prayer of Jesus was not just offered on that one night: it is his constant prayer to his heavenly Father, at whose right hand he now reigns, while also remaining here with us. The Church is not just a human institution, but the Body of Christ, he the head and we the members. His prayer is our prayer, offered for us. Today let us rejoice in the constant prayer of Jesus for us, his friends, the Church, and pray that though we must live and work in this world, we will not belong to it, but may have hearts and minds set on the Kingdom of Heaven. May the promised Spirit be renewed in us!

For our Younger Friends

Have you ever felt a bit grumpy because mum and dad tell you not to do something, or not to go somewhere, or lay down rules for you to follow? They probably do all of this because they want to protect you, not because they want to spoil your fun! Sometimes we all (grownups included!) need someone to tell us what's right and wrong, what's safe and not. This is what Jesus does today: he prays for all his friends, so that they may be safe, be joyful, and be united in his truth. Let's say our own thank you to Jesus today, for praying for us!

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Let us pray to be sanctified by the Spirit of truth that we may live in the love of Christ all our days.

May God's love for the poor and oppressed be perfected in us through the anointing Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit ...

A: And renew the face of the earth.

L: May the word of God be the root and foundation of our worshiping communities. Come, Holy Spirit ...

A: And renew the face of the earth.

L: May the apostolic ministry of the church leaders, clergy, and religious provide inspiring witness to God's enduring kindness. Come, Holy Spirit ...

A: And renew the face of the earth.

L: May the Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, bring to life all who have died trusting in God's love. Come, Holy Spirit ...

A: And renew the face of the earth.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with all we offer you today, that through these acts of devotedness we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, it is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks. For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder. Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before. At the Last Supper he had showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

A: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

L: My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

A: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

A: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

L: The Lord has set his sway in heaven and his kingdom is ruling over all. Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels, mighty in power, fulfilling his word.

A: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Hear us, O God our Saviour, and grant us confidence, that through these sacred mysteries there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church what has already come to pass in Christ her Head. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!

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