

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19.
℞ 22

℞ **I believe I shall see
the Lord's goodness in
the land of the living.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? ℞

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord, to enquire at his temple..℞

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer me. Of you my heart has spoken, 'Seek his face.'
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℞ **I believe I shall see
the Lord's goodness in
the land of the living.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:13-16

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia...

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia...

GOSPEL

John 17:1-11a

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

'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. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 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. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ.**

REFLECTION

In the days between Ascension and Pentecost, the Church waits with the apostles in prayerful expectation. It is in this spirit that we hear Jesus' words in John 17, often called His "High Priestly Prayer." Here, on the eve of His Passion, Jesus lifts His eyes to the Father and prays not only for Himself, but for His disciples and for all who will come to believe through them. It is a prayer filled with love, unity, mission, and glory.

Jesus begins, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you." The Church Fathers saw in these words the mystery of the Cross itself. St Augustine reminds us that Christ is glorified not by earthly triumph, but through His obedience and sacrifice: "The humility of His Passion became the glory of His Resurrection." The glory of Jesus is revealed in self-giving love, and those who follow Him must walk the same path.

Christ then speaks of eternal life: "that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." For the Fathers, eternal life is not simply life after death, but communion with God beginning now. St Cyril of Alexandria taught that to know Christ is to be drawn into the very life of God. The Christian faith is therefore not merely a moral system or private spirituality; it is living relationship with the risen Lord.

This matters deeply for the mission of the Church. In this week's pew sheet we reflect on Christ's command to "go and make disciples." John 17 shows us the heart behind that command. Jesus desires that the world may know the Father's love through the witness of His people. St John Chrysostom observed that Christ entrusted ordinary disciples with the care of the world, not because of their strength, but because His grace would sustain them.

Jesus also prays for unity: "Holy Father, protect them in your name... so that they may be one, as we are one." In a fragmented and weary world, the unity of Christians is itself a form of witness. When the Church lives in forgiveness, charity, and truth, people glimpse something of the life of heaven.

As we await Pentecost, we do so knowing that the mission of the Church is born from prayer. Before the disciples are sent out, they are first held in the prayer of Christ Himself. The same Lord who prayed for the apostles now prays for us, and sends us into the world bearing His love, His truth, and His life.