

The Collect and Readings for The Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Readings

First Reading Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

In the earliest days of Christianity, Judas' betrayal has left a vacancy for an apostle. Understanding of scripture, coupled with prayer, guides the apostles' choice of his replacement.

Second Reading 1 John 5:9-13

John is responding to heretical teaching that Jesus is not the Christ. In this context, John teaches that eternal life comes only through Jesus, the Son of God.

Gospel John 17:6-19

Jesus knows he is nearly at the end of his earthly ministry. Before going to Gethsemane, he prays to the Father for his disciples.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, ¹⁶Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! ² Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ It is not so with the wicked: they are like chaff which the wind blows away; ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. ⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Happy are they who trust in the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of John

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: ⁶Father, 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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.