

Reading for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

May 17th 2026

First reading

Acts 1:12-14

‘All with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.’

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R13

*I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.
or: Alleluia.*

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.’

Second reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

‘If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed.’

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 14:18

Alleluia, 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

‘Father, glorify your Son.’

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.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

The Gospel of today presents Jesus praying to the Father when His own hour came. Now is our own hour to pray. Here we saw a deep spiritual communication between Jesus and His Father. They discussed about His mission and activities. He renders account to God in thanksgiving for those He gave Him. He asked to be glorified. The resurrection and Ascension of Christ were answers to these powerful prayers; hence, they are enlisted as the first two glorious mysteries we pray.

As the Church anticipates the third glorious mystery, which is the Descent of the Holy Spirit we are called to ponder on the prayer of Jesus and His wish for us.

All that Jesus did and prayed was just for our sake. He came for us, lived for us, died for us, rose for us.

He ascended into heaven and from there prays for us. Thus the prayer He makes for us therefrom is a continuation of the prayer He started making here before His death as recorded in the Gospel of today.

The romantic nature of our prayers is the bond it carries, how it joins us to Christ in a miraculous and yet realistic way. Through this we see ourselves praying to God through Jesus Christ, we experience Jesus interceding for us, we listen to Him talk to our hearts, He joins us in prayers, we feel His abiding presence and He grants what we pray.

Let us hear His words and wishes for us as we unite in prayer.