

Reading for Weekday in the Seventh Week of Eastertide

May 19th 2026

First reading

Acts 20:17-27

‘I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus.’

In those days: From Miletus Paul sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: ‘You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance towards God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68(67):10-11. 20-21. R33a

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God.

or: Alleluia.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain; when your heritage languished, you restored it.

It was there that your flock began to dwell. In your goodness, O God, you provided for the poor.

Day after day, may the Lord be blest. He bears our burdens; God is our saviour.

This God of ours is a God who saves. The Lord our Lord provides an escape from death.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:16

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,
to be with you for ever.

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

For the next couple of days we will be reading from Our Lord's prayer during the Last Supper. He begins by praying for himself, "Father, glorify your Son." Jesus knows that his path to glory leads through the cross. His lifting up on the cross will lead to his being lifted up in glory. Jesus is ready to return to the Father because, "I have finished the work that you gave me to do." We all have work to do while we are on this earth; we have all been given some share in the Lord's own life-giving work.

Hopefully there will come a day when, like Jesus, we too can turn to God and say, "I have finished the work you gave me to do. Now, take me to yourself." In the meantime, we try to be faithful to the Lord's work, the mission to make him known to others by the way we live. In doing this we are not left to our own devices. The Lord works with us. Having prayed for himself, Jesus prayed for his disciples, who are to be his witnesses in the world. He lives forever to intercede for all us, so that we may be faithful to the work he gives us. Even when we find it a struggle to pray, we can be sure that the Lord is praying within us.