

## Reading for Weekday in the Seventh Week of Eastertide

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

### First reading

Acts 20:28-38

**‘I commend you to God, who is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance.’**

In those days: Paul spoke to the elders of the church of Ephesus: ‘Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” ’

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 68(67):29-30. 33-35a. 35b-36c. R33a**

*You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Command your might, O God;  
your might, O God, which you have shown for us.  
From your Temple high in Jerusalem,  
kings will come to you bringing their tribute.  
You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God, praise the Lord  
who rides on the heavens, the ancient heavens.  
Behold, he thunders his voice, his mighty voice.  
Come, acknowledge the power of God.  
His glory is on Israel; his might is in the skies.  
Wondrous is God in his holy place.  
He is God, the God of Israel.  
He himself gives strength and power to his people.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. John 17:17b, a**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Your word is truth, O Lord;  
sanctify us in the truth.  
Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

### **John 17:11b-19**

**‘May they be one, even as we are one.’**

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and praying said, ‘Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth.’

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Jesus has watched over his disciples and protected them. Now his prayer on their behalf continues his loving care. His intercessory prayer is an extension of the many ways he had served them since they first began to follow him. In a similar way, our prayer for others is an extension of our care for them; it is another form of service.

By his intercession for his disciples Jesus teaches us the value of all intercessory prayer. Intercession for others has been at the heart of the church’s prayer life since the time of Jesus. Paul often mentions prayers for his churches and he called on his people to pray for him. Both Jesus and Paul, of course, were heirs to a Jewish tradition that greatly valued this form of prayer. Praying for others is one of the ways we express our communion with others in Christ.