



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

24th May 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: This is an "in between" Sunday: last Thursday was the Ascension, when Jesus returned to his Father in heaven; next Sunday is Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to take possession of the disciples. On this "in between" Sunday, we think of what Mary and those disciples were doing – waiting in prayer for Jesus to complete his Mission by sending the Spirit. Let us praise the glory of God, saying together:

GLORIA

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord, so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race is with you in your glory, may experience, as he promised, until the end of the world, his abiding presence among us. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 17:1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true

God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

REFLECTION

Leader: Notice how, in today's Gospel, Jesus starts by thanking his Father as he completes his Mission – something which happened both on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday (one mystery referred to as the "Paschal Mystery"). But then he moves on to pray for *us* – those to whom he has made known the Father's name. This is Jesus' prayer *for us*, the Church, today and always. The last words of the Gospel make it perfectly clear why he is praying like this: it is our job now. We are the ones still in the world, still proclaiming the Gospel, still working our daily miracles of kindness and mercy and compassion. But Jesus never abandons us – as last week he said "I will not leave you orphans" – but comes to us spiritually and physically, and sends his Spirit constantly to strengthen us. Come, Holy Spirit! Renew the face of the earth!

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS



Sometimes it's good to be given a job. OK, some jobs are not particularly great, like cleaning your bedroom or tidying your toys, but sometimes you might be given a job to do at school or by your parents and you feel so proud – they trust you, they think you can do it, it's great! This is what Jesus does. He

gives his friends a job: he goes back to heaven, to be with God his Father, and he wants us to keep on doing his good work. What sort of job does Jesus give to you? And how good do you feel about doing it?

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: We join Mary and the disciples in praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: We pray that the Spirit may blow once more through the Church, keeping us true to Jesus and the mission he has entrusted to us.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Leader: We pray that the Spirit of God may be felt in our world, so that there may be more peace, more kindness, more love.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Leader: We pray that the Spirit may fill our homes with faith and hope, and love for God and for our neighbours.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful, that through these acts of devotedness we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: After his Resurrection Jesus plainly appeared to all his disciples and was taken up to heaven in their sight, that he might make us sharers in his divinity.

At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

All: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Leader: There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

All: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Leader: O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

All: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Hear us, O God our Saviour, and grant us confidence, that through these sacred mysteries there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church what has already come to pass in Christ her Head. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!