



AMDG
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR C
2ND JUNE 2019



**I will come back to you
and your hearts
will be full of joy!**

OPENING PRAYER

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.

As we come close to the end of the season of Easter, our readings are full of joy and the hope that comes from trust in the Risen Lord Jesus.

The *First Reading* from the Acts of the Apostles tells of the martyrdom of Stephen after he speaks of Jesus as Lord, at God's right hand. Even as he is being stoned, Stephen cries out with words of forgiveness for his executioners and asks, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'. Saul, who will become Paul, witnesses Stephen's faith in the face of death.

Towards the end of his life, John receives a revelation of God that he sets down in writing, as he is told to do. He writes of Jesus's invitation to us all to receive from him and his promises that he will be with us always. (*Second Reading*)

The *Gospel* recounts part of the prayer of Jesus for all believers, made at the Last Supper before his Passion and death. Jesus prays for a unity among us that mirrors the oneness of Father and Son, and that his love may always be the foundation of our sharing of the life of God with others.

We respond with joy in the words of the *Psalms* because the Lord is King. We pray too that our lives may be filled with joy and trust in our Risen Lord, especially in our most difficult struggles.

PSALM 96 (97)

R./ The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
His throne is justice and right.

The skies proclaim his justice;
All peoples see his glory.
All you spirits, worship him.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all spirits.

As I come to my place of prayer, I allow myself as long as I need simply to become still and quiet. If I have been busy or preoccupied, this may take some time, so I try not to rush.

When I am ready, I read the words of the psalm slowly, lingering over any words or phrases that have meaning for me.

In this time of Easter joy, I may like to begin with the response.

What does it mean for me that '*The Lord is king*', that I am part of his kingdom?

Perhaps I notice the words of exultation in the psalm:

'rejoice'; 'be glad'; 'glory'; 'worship'.

I recall the joy of the Risen Jesus in his victory over death.

I may find I can rejoice and be glad with Jesus, spending time giving glory and praise to him, in the words of the psalm or in my own words.

Or maybe I find that joy does not come easily to me, that I need the power of his victory over suffering and pain.

I talk with him, perhaps re-reading the words of the psalm in hope and trust:
'*The Lord is king...*'

Whatever place I find myself, I ask the risen Jesus to teach me and to help me to know him more fully as I try to follow him in my life.

Is there some particular way in which he asks me to share his life with others this week?

After a time, I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks.

Glory be ...

GOSPEL JOHN 17: 20–26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
'Holy Father, I pray not only for these,
but for those also who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you love me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you,
but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me.

I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known,
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.'

After coming to some stillness in whatever way is best for me, I read this Gospel passage slowly. Jesus prays not only for the disciples present at the Last Supper, but 'for those also who through their words will believe in me' – he prays for me and for my fellow believers.

What do I feel and think as I read Jesus's prayer?

I can trust that Jesus knows all about me, so I can be honest in my reactions to his words.

In listening to Jesus, perhaps I find joy, wonder, gratitude ... or....?

I may choose to thank him for whatever I perceive of his love and closeness.

Or maybe I feel sorrow or dismay, noticing times and places of disunity and strife? This too, I share with the Lord, returning in faith to his prayer.

I may want to choose one person or situation that I will meet this week where I can try to share the love that the Father has given me in Jesus.

I speak with our Lord about this, asking for whatever help I need, knowing I can always trust his presence with me.

I end my prayer in stillness, in oneness with God. I may pray *Our Father* ...

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Stephen said, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'...

'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'.

First Reading

The Lord is King, let earth rejoice!

Psalm

Let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

Second Reading

'I shall indeed be with you.' Amen; come Lord Jesus!

Second Reading

This week's texts if you want to reflect further

Acts 7: 55–60; Ps. 96 (97); Apoc. 22: 12–14, 16–17, 20; John 17: 20–26



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