

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;
hide not your face from me, alleluia.

GLORIA

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.

COLLECT

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.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:15-17.20-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
One day Peter stood up to speak to the
brothers – there were about a hundred
and twenty persons in the congregation:
"Brothers, the passage of scripture had to
be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking
through David, foretells the fate of Judas,
who offered himself as a guide to the men
who arrested Jesus – after having been one
of our number and actually sharing this
ministry of ours.

"In the Book of Psalms it says:

Let someone else take his office.

"We must therefore choose someone who
has been with us the whole time that the Lord
Jesus was travelling round with us, someone
who was with us right from the time when
John was baptising until the day when he
was taken up from us – and he can act with
us as a witness to his resurrection."

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph
know as Barsabbas, whose surname was
Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, "Lord, you
can read everyone's heart; show us therefore
which of these two you have chosen to take
over the ministry and apostolate, which
Judas abandoned to go to his proper place."
They then drew lots for them, and as the lot
fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the
twelve apostles.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 102

Response:

The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

Or

Alleluia.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. For as the heavens are high above the
earth
so strong is his love for those who fear
him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.(R.)
3. The Lord has set his sway in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,
mighty in power, fulfilling his word (R.)

SECOND READING

1 John 4:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My dear people,
Since God has loved us so much,
we too should love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
But as long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.
We can know that we are living in him
and he is living in us
because he lets us share his Spirit.
We ourselves saw and we testify
that the Father sent his Son
as saviour of the world.
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son
of God,
God lives in him, and he in God.
We ourselves have known and put our faith in
God's love toward ourselves.
God is love
and anyone who lives in love lives in God,
and God lives in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will
be full of joy.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
"Holy Father,
keep those you have given me true to your
name,
so that they may be one like us.
While I was with them,
I kept those you had given me true to your
name.
I have watched over them and not one is
lost
except the one who chose to be lost,
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.
But now I am coming to you
and while still in the world I say these
things
to share my joy with them to the full.
I passed your word on to them,

and the world hated them,
because they belong to the world
no more than I belong to the world.
I am not asking you to remove them from
the world,
but to protect them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world any more
than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth;
your word is truth.
As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world,
and for their sake I consecrate myself
so that they too may be consecrated in
truth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next three lines)

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, I pray that they may be one
as we also are one, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 was already come to pass in Christ her
Head.
Who lived and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.



WAITING FOR THE SPIRIT

(JOHN 17:11B-19)

The Gospel reading today is from the section of Jesus' last discourse known as his *High-Priestly Prayer*.

He is presenting himself as the sacrificial victim who will bring the Father's plan for humanity to its fulfilment by offering himself on the cross. He prays also for his disciples in the hostility which they themselves will encounter in and from the world. Earlier we were told that God loved the world: now the term *world* refers to those people who have heard the word of Jesus and decided to reject it, thereby bringing judgment upon themselves. They are now to be proved wrong. Jesus' disciples are those who have come to him and left 'the world' behind: they have come out of the darkness into the light. But the hostile world remains, and Jesus prays that the Father will protect his disciples from evil – or perhaps from the Prince of this world. ■



REFLECT

In the Gospel of John, there is no institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, such as we find in the Synoptic versions. The Johannine version of this important event is to be found in the Sign and Discourse on *The Bread of Life* in Chapter 6, which tells of Jesus feeding the crowds with his Word and Sacrament. We are very familiar with the term *consecration*, which to the Catholic way of thinking applies especially to certain particular lines at the heart of the Eucharistic prayer. But here we find Jesus consecrating, not bread and wine, but his disciples: the Gospels do not simply tell us the story of the historical Jesus and his disciples at the time, but also apply to us today, so Jesus is not praying simply for those with him on the eve of his Passion, but also for us today. We are the ones whom Jesus is asking the Father to consecrate.

The root meaning of *consecrate* is to set apart for a holy purpose, so that the person or object is associated with God in some special way. For example, a chalice is consecrated for use only at the celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus is asking the Father to consecrate his disciples in the truth, then adds, "your word is truth." The evangelist has told us that Jesus is the Word, and that Jesus is the Truth. To be a disciple means to have accepted Jesus' word and so to have been pruned, that is, purified by receiving his teaching. To belong to Jesus means to belong to God, and this means to be holy. The Church is best understood today in the official teaching as being the People of God.

Underlying all this is the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the Fourth Gospel, it is the gift of the Spirit which transforms disciples into apostles. Although the Paraclete is not mentioned, this is the reason for this section of the Gospel being proposed today for our reflection on this Sunday between the Ascension and Pentecost. You are a disciple, a member of the People of God: you may not be a saint, but you are a consecrated, a holy person. ■

LEARN

There is no Last Supper scene in the Fourth Gospel as we have in the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke.

To *consecrate* means to set aside for a holy purpose.

The word *apostle* means someone who is sent:

In the Fourth Gospel, the disciples are sent only when they have received the gift of the Spirit from the Risen Jesus.

SAY

Consecrate me in the truth, Lord. Your word is truth.

DO

As you leave the house in the morning, pause at the door, ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit and say to yourself, *Welcome to your Mission Field*.