

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 live and reigns with you on the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1: 12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
After Jesus was taken up into heaven, the
apostles went back from the Mount of Olives,
as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance
away, no more than a sabbath walk; and
when they reached the city they went to the
upper room where they were staying; there
were Peter and John, James son of Alphaeus
and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of
James. All these joined in continuous prayer,
together with several women, including Mary
the Mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 26

Response:

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in
the land or the living.

Or Alleluia!

- 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? (R.)
- 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. (R.)

- O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
"Seek his face". (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4: 13-16

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

If you can have some share in the sufferings
of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy
a much greater gladness when his glory is
revealed. It is a blessing for you when they
insult you for bearing the name of Christ,
because it means that you have the Spirit of
glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None
of you should ever deserve to suffer for being
a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer;
but if anyone of you should suffer for being a
Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it;
he should thank God that he has been called
one.

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: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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 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 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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear us, O God our Saviour,
and grant us confidence,
and 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.
Amen.

Sunday Message

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 21 May 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

GLORIOUS DESTINY

JN 17:1-11



Today's Gospel comes from what is known as the final discourse of Jesus. It takes place as the disciples gather in the upper room to celebrate the Passover.

Judas has just left to betray Jesus, who now knows that he is about to endure his passion and death. Despite the fact that he will be crucified as a criminal and a failure, Jesus uses the word 'glorify' to describe what will happen to him.

'Glory' is a key word in the Gospel of John. In the eyes of the world, Jesus' mission was a failure. But seen from the perspective of God's saving plan, it was no failure but a glorious triumph. If Jesus was nailed to a cross, it was so that he could be lifted up, exalted in glory. That process of glory will begin very soon. In it, Jesus will be revealed as the faithful servant of God who was despised and rejected but who would be raised to great heights.

Jesus describes the key to eternal life. "Eternal life is this:" Jesus tells his disciples, "to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent." Do this, and all of us will have a share in the glory of heaven. ■

LEARN

The Christian witnesses to the faith at all times

Prayer is central to the life of the Christian

The Christian looks forward to the glory of the resurrection

SAY

"Lord, help me to cling to you every day. Never let me be parted from you. Amen."

DO

Eternal life, Jesus says, is to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent. How familiar are you with the catechism of the Church? How well do you know the bible? How well do you know Jesus and the only true God in heaven?

PRAY

More Christian martyrs are being created now than at any time in the past. Pray for all those who are happy to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

REFLECT

In today's second reading, Peter talks about sharing in the sufferings of Christ. It is a blessing, he says, when people mock and insult you for being a Christian. One should thank God for the honour of bearing the name of Christ. It is an extraordinary change from only a short period before when Peter denied Jesus three times, and had locked himself behind closed doors, afraid for his life. Now Peter is on fire with faith. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, he preaches the Good News to anyone who will listen. He is happy even to die for the sake of the Gospel. Peter's belief in the resurrection has changed everything for him.

Unlike Peter, we may never have denied Jesus publicly. We may never have locked ourselves behind closed doors out of fear of persecution. But witnessing to the Gospel in 2023 is not easy. It can be tempting to keep our heads down, to practise our faith quietly, almost surreptitiously, to not wish to offend secular friends or rock any boats. How happy are you to suffer for your faith, as St Peter advocates in his letter? Would you be happy to risk all for the sake of the Gospel? Would you be prepared even to die for it? ■