

# Sunday Message

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • 12 May 2024 • Psalter Week 3

## JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

JOHN 17: 11-19



Today's Gospel is taken from what is commonly known as Jesus' farewell discourse. He presents a prayer, which is a priestly prayer prayed over his disciples.

You could possibly call it a prayer of commissioning, as he prepares them for a life of ministry, that will test them to their limits. There are similarities between this prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Jesus addresses God as Father in both and both prayers put a strong emphasis on the priority of God's will. Jesus has been with his disciples for a considerable time. But he will never depart from them. He will remain with them forever. It's a consoling message for them, but also for the Church. He will defend us when the going in the world gets tough. ■

### REFLECT

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates World Communications Day and most of us can proclaim to be experts in this field with the advent of smart phones and other devices that bring us into contact with a range of possibilities through the Internet. There are huge positives attached to being able to use the Internet, not least for people who live away from home and can keep in contact with family through WhatsApp, Facebook and other platforms. Pope Francis himself stated back in 2014 that the internet should be "an environment rich in humanity, a network not of wires but of people."

We not only celebrate today but we also reflect on the current state and nature of relationships on the Internet. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication states that social media can nourish "true, beautiful, solid relationships but it can also fuel hatred." He goes on to state that Pope Francis wants people to view social media not as something that traps you, but something that frees you and that you make an instrument of freedom. On this World Communications Day, the Church underlines the value of interaction understood as dialogue and as an opportunity to meet with others.

Today also confirms Pope Francis' attention to the new communications environment where he is present with his @Pontifex account on X and @Franciscus account on Instagram. ■

### DO

If you're a little out of practice in your prayer life, how about taking as little as 10 minutes a day to begin a conversation with God. If you are short on words, read from today's Gospel.

### SAY

'Whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.'  
(Mark's Gospel)



### LEARN

'For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.'  
(St. Therese of Lisieux)



**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  
known 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 (103):1-2, 11-12, 19-20

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.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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 two 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 has already come to pass in Christ her  
Head.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

