

focus on sunday

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 12th May 2024

Christ prayed in the Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is the source of the prayer and praise of the whole Church. The Spirit of God is resting on us as we offer this sacrifice of praise today.



The image of Jesus we see in today's Gospel is like that of a good friend calling for the protection of those who were given to him and whom he is now sending out in his name. What does Jesus want for his friends?

"...that they may have my joy made complete in themselves." This Gospel is part of Jesus' Farewell Discourse to his disciples. While he is still with them, he speaks as one who has already departed, one who knows that the world will be hostile to his friends as it is about to be for him. We can read this text today assured that what Jesus says about his disciples, he says about all of his followers, for us too. What does it mean to have the joy of Christ made complete in you?

Jesus is aware of the struggles that his disciples of every age face and will face. His message is counter-cultural and will meet resistance in all times. But it is a message of truth, of love and justice for all people. Our world is badly in need of truth, love and justice and those who proclaim such messages will no doubt face backlash and criticism. Today's Gospel offers us this image of Jesus who deeply cares for those who have been entrusted to him, that they will be protected, that they will experience his joy, that despite the challenges we face he has given us God's Word. This week, enter into this passage in contemplation, allow the words to settle in your heart. Imagine Jesus speaking these words about you! How does this make you feel? How do you experience Christ's joy?

Jane Mellett



not 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.

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 for following 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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. Through Christ our Lord.

they prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102:1-2. 11-12. 19-20

R. 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, five 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, mightily in power, fulfilling his work. (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 towards 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.

GOSEL 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!

GOSEL 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 you and 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

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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us.....

THE 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.



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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 around 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,