

May 8, 2016

7th Sunday of Easter

## The Son is at the right hand side of the Father!

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 97:1-2, 6-7, 9

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20

John 17:20-26

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, "saw the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." He was then thrown out of the city and stoned while Saul watched the cloaks of the persecutors. Stephen's last words were, "Lord Jesus, do not hold this sin against them."

The psalmist acknowledges the Lord is King and Most High over all the earth. The heavens proclaim the Lord's justice and the earth rejoices because justice and judgment are the foundations of his throne. He is above all gods and they are prostrate before him.

In his vision, John hears a voice proclaim, "I am coming soon. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the root and offspring of David. I will give each according to his deeds. Come and receive the life-giving water."

Jesus prays not only for those closest to him, but also for all those who will believe in him and become one with him. Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus. The world does not know the Righteous Father but Jesus does and has made his name known to the disciples. All believers will be brought to perfection in Jesus.

**Glory to the Father Creator,  
Glory to the Son, our Redeemer,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, Guide and Defender.**

## Be quiet, listen, and open your heart.

Jesus emphasizes that unity among his followers is most important. Unity that is real, vibrant, and clearly perceptible to others emphasizes our oneness with the Lord God. It is our commitment to love that enables us to act gently and dissipate anger and envy, while bringing about patience, friendliness, and charity to those around us.

What can you do to bring our community closer together?

The words of Jesus in John's gospel convey a reality of oneness between Jesus and his believers. This kind of unity requires inner quietness, a willingness to listen, and an openness of mind and heart. As awareness is sensitized humility will blossom and bring us together as one community of believers.



Too often our minds are closed and like a cell phone that is shut off we just don't hear the calls coming in. To better understand life inside and outside of ourselves we need to practice passiveness and quiet ourselves. The crude and vulgar nature of the many and varied activities in our culture must be rejected. Fortunately, the best of man in difficult situations still survives and is readily identified with little effort.

We can hear the communications of nature through our senses and let the truth outside of ourselves impact our often closed little world. If we can relax we can come to love times of silence as the prerequisite to listening and opening our hearts to the Way of Jesus.

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