

May 24, 2020 7th Sunday of Easter

We must follow Him as did his disciples!

Acts 1:12-14

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8

1Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11a

In the first reading Jesus ascends to heaven while the disciples gather together in the upper room in Mount Olives, near Jerusalem. They are of one accord in prayer, men and women, including Mary, mother of Jesus.

The Psalmist declares the Lord to be his light, his salvation, his life's refuge, and therefore has no need to fear the world's challenges. He asks the Lord to hear him, pity him, and answer him in his needs. He is single-minded as his heart speaks only of the Lord, his glance seeks the Lord, and he seeks to dwell in the Lord's house.



In the second reading Peter tells the faithful to rejoice when they have to suffer for the sake of the faith for then they share in Christ's sufferings. To be insulted for Jesus' teachings is to be blessed for God's spirit rests upon such believers. Never be ashamed, in fact be joyful, if you have to suffer for upholding Christian values.

In the Gospel Jesus prays and speaks to the Father. He has completed the mission given to him by the Father and in this way the Son glorifies Father since he has accomplished the works assigned by the Father. Jesus is concerned for those who followed him for they too belong to the Father, and now follow and accept the Son's teaching, which means they accept the ways of the Father.

The Father assigns the works,
The Son glorifies the Father by accomplishing them,
The Holy Spirit continually rests upon Him.

In the Gospel Jesus defines eternal life as life that knows the true God and the One he has sent. The Psalmist did not have a conception of eternal life and his belief that "he will see good things in the land of the living" could well be interpreted differently by us who believe in the resurrection. The Gospel takes a post-resurrection point of view which even the apostles did not fully understand at the time. But we have the Living Word which guides us to "the land of life" where Jesus now dwells.

He Will Teach You Everything!

"Jesus said to his first friends, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, he it is who will teach you everything, and bring to your minds everything that I have said to you."

Indeed, he is the very spirit of love, the fount of charity, the living stream; it is he who creates new eyes for those who would see Jesus, by illuminating their minds and enkindling their hearts. (John of Ford, 13th century)

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Prayer for Purity of Intention

Jesus, it is in You and through faith in You that I can speak freely to the Father and draw near to Him in confidence. ¹ The intention of the human heart is like water far below the surface, and now I draw it forth. ²

I make it my aim to work for peace and strengthen my brothers and sisters;³ I make justice my aim and will do my best to redress those I have wronged.⁴ I have this hope, based on You, to become like You, and so I will do my best to keep myself pure, as You are pure.⁵ The Father loves the pure of heart.⁶

Father, I desire to be intent on things above rather than on things of earth⁷ and ask for Your help. Guide me to stay clear of worldly, idle talk and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.⁸ The ways of people may be pure in their own eyes, but it is you who proves the spirit.⁹

You are God, there is no other; You are God, there is none like You. At the beginning You foretell the outcome; in advance, things not yet done. You say Your plan shall stand, You accomplish Your every purpose.¹⁰ And so I pray to You, Father, that You make me worthy of Your call, and fulfill in me by Your power every honest intention and work of faith.¹¹ My mission may be small or it may be great, but You are the potter and have the right to make one vessel for a lofty purpose and another for a humble one.¹²

Guide me so that my thoughts will be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, and all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent virtuous, or worthy of praise¹³ and that I may always pursue integrity, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on You in purity of heart.¹⁴

1. Ephesians 3:12

5. 1 John 3:3

9. Proverbs 16:2

13. Philip 4:8

2. Proverbs 20:5

6. Proverbs 22:11

10. Isaiah 46:10

14. 2 Timothy 2:22

3. Romans 14:19

7. Col 3:2

11. 2 Thess 1:11

4. Isaiah 1:17

8. 1 Timothy 6:20

12. Romans 9:21

2020 Pope's Intentions

January	That all may be inspired to work towards peace and justice throughout the World.	World Peace
February	That all victims of human trafficking will find healing and peace and that those who take part in this evil to see the harm they are causing.	Human Trafficking
March	That the Church in China will find the strength to persevere when the faith is challenged.	Church In China
April	That those who suffer from addictions will seek help and find freedom in Christ.	Addictions
May	That those who have heard the call to become a Deacon will faithfully serve the Church.	Deacons
June	That those who suffer would find hope in the Healing Heart of Jesus.	Suffering
July	That families may be a place of authentic joy, faith, and love.	Families
August	That those who work and live on the sea will experience the fullness of God's love.	Maritime World
September	That all would respect the gift of our planet and use our resources wisely.	The Planet
October	That the laity would embrace and live out their mission to the Church.	The Laity
November	That advances in artificial intelligence will serve humankind.	Artificial Intelligence
December	That all may strive to live a life of holiness and prayer.	Prayer Life