

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



For the Glory of God

Lord of Glory,
You entrusted the work of salvation to
your Son,
and he fulfilled his mission perfectly.
He revealed your glory
to all who believed in his words
and who witnessed the life-giving power
of his death and Resurrection.
Now we pray as he did.

We raise our eyes to heaven
and ask for your Spirit of glory.
May we devote ourselves to prayer,
to sharing the Gospel,
and to offering ourselves in life-giving service,
so that all creation will glorify your name.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 24, 2020

The Glory of God



Today's Readings: Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7–8; 1 Peter 4:13–16; John 17:1–11a. God's Chosen People did not see God directly. Instead, God made himself known in various ways, from giving his law to calling forth prophets. The Israelites used the word *glory* to refer to God's awe-inspiring greatness or enormity. God led and shaped his people so that ultimately they would manifest his glory to all the nations on earth.

As the incarnate Son of God, Jesus is the complete embodiment and the perfect manifestation of God's glory. That glory is especially visible in his death and Resurrection. The hour of Jesus' passion and death is simultaneously the

hour of his glorification, the moment in his earthly ministry when he reveals his Father's absolute love for the world. God's Son enters into death in order for people to live forever in the radiance of God's glory.

In the reading from Acts, Jesus' followers await the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to reveal God's glory to the nations. That is our call, to individually and collectively reveal God's glory, to make his loving presence known and encountered by everyone. As we live according to the values of God's kingdom, we will encounter skepticism, rejection, and even hostility. By persevering, however, we both glorify God and enter into God's glory.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 25

Fill Us

Although Jesus' disciples think they understand him, Jesus insists that their understanding is incomplete: during his passion, they will abandon him. Only with the gift of the Holy Spirit will they find the courage to stay faithful. By contrast, Paul encounters men who have not heard of the Holy Spirit but who are well prepared to receive this gift. We need both the Spirit and the formation of our faith community to guide us forward. Pray for the Spirit to fill you and your faith community. *Today's Readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

Tuesday, May 26

Imitators

There are similarities between Paul's journey to Jerusalem and Jesus' preparations for his passion. In John's account of the Gospel, Jesus gives a long farewell discourse in which he talks with his disciples about all that is going to happen. Paul also makes a formal farewell before facing the hardships that await him. As he says goodbye, Paul urges his listeners to imitate Jesus just as he has. Hear more of Paul's heartfelt words by reading all or part of his letter to the Philippians. *Today's Readings: Acts 20:17–27; Psalm 68:10–11, 20–21; John 17:1–11a.*

Wednesday, May 27

Set Apart

In the Gospel passage, the word *world* refers to all that opposes God. As Jesus continues his prayer to the Father, he speaks about how his followers are set apart from the world. He prays that God will further consecrate or sanctify them to continue his work of sharing the truth of God's love. Paul also was set apart for God's work, and he reminded others to remain steadfast in holiness. In what concrete ways can you set yourself apart from the world? *Today's Readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

Thursday, May 28

That All May Be One

Religion, sadly, often divides people instead of uniting them. The Pharisees and Sadducees disagreed on whether there was any kind of afterlife. Disagreements about beliefs and practices persist among Christians today. Such division compels us to bow our heads and echo Jesus' prayer for unity. *Today's Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

Friday, May 29

In the Hands of Others

In Luke's Gospel account, Jesus tells his disciples that they will be handed over to kings and governors (21:12–13). In the passage from Acts, Paul is in the hands of the local governor who consults on his case with the king. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells Peter that one day Peter will be arrested and crucified. Centuries later, Christians still come into conflict with those in authority. Pray for those who are attacked or imprisoned because of their faith. *Today's Readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

Saturday, May 30

The Work Continues

As we near the end of our Easter season, we hear the conclusions to the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel according to John. Paul has arrived at Rome, in fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy that his followers would be his witnesses throughout the world. Today Christian missionaries have crossed oceans to enter new regions and share the story of salvation. John's Gospel notes that Jesus said and did far more than any book could contain. The Jesus who has risen, ascended to his Father, and filled us with his Spirit continues his mission through us. May the good work we do in Jesus' name fill more volumes than could ever be written. *Today's Readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*

