

May 12th, 2013 Seventh Sunday After Easter, Confirmation and IHP

Introduction to the Day

In the Gospel reading today, we hear the prayer Jesus offered shortly before his death. In this prayer, it is possible to hear the petitions of the ascended Lord for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us that we, too, would be one with God and one in his mission of love and servanthood.

After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship, we will begin the liturgy.

Prayers of the People

Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Unify your church and heal the divisions that keep us from proclaiming your love with voices joined as one. Help the church of Christ in every land make your name known. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal the places of the earth that are torn apart by natural disaster: earthquakes, storms, drought, and floods. Strengthen first responders in times of emergency and fortify those who rebuild. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Make wars to cease and end violence between nations, in our communities, and in our homes. Be present with peacekeepers and those who serve in the military throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Wrap your arms around all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit - in Tanzania and throughout the world. Reveal your love through the care and compassion of those who serve people in need, especially the volunteers, staff and supporters of International Health Partners. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fill Sonia, Wulfe and all those gathered here with the power and purpose of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Stir up in us the faith to believe in the promise of everlasting life. Strengthen us with the memory of those who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e.. "The First Reading is from the.... chapter of ..." - then read the text.)

FIRST READING – *The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.*

Revelation 22:12–14

See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING – *Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.*

John 17:20–26

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.