

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Cycle C

FIRST READING

I can see the heavens thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

7:55-60

Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit.
He looked toward heaven,
where he saw our glorious God and Jesus standing at his right side.
Then Stephen said, "I see heaven open
and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!"

The council members shouted and covered their ears.
At once they all attacked Stephen and dragged him out of the city.
Then they started throwing stones at him.
the men who had brought charges against him
put their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

As Stephen was being stoned to death, he called out,
"Lord Jesus, please welcome me!"
He knelt down and shouted,
"Lord, don't blame them for what they have done."
Then he died.

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

97:1, 6, 9

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The Lord is King!
Tell the earth to celebrate
and all islands to shout.

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The heavens announce,
“The Lord brings justice!”
Everyone sees God’s glory.

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The Lord rules the whole earth,
and he is more glorious
than all the false gods.

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

or:

R. Alleluia.



ALLELUIA

See John 14:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord says: I will not leave you orphans.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

May they be completely one.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

17:20-21

Jesus prayed to God:
“Father, I am not praying just for these followers.
I am also praying for everyone else who will have faith
because of what my followers will say about me.
I want all of them to be one with each other,
just as I am one with you
and you are one with me.
I also want them to be one with us.
Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Cycle C

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God our Father and Creator, out of our many parts you weave a whole.

Help us to remember that we are all members of your family.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen

Opening Life Reflection

The main focus for today is unity. For this session use a woven cloth or tapestry to help the children understand the concept of unity. Place the cloth in the center of the room and invite the children to look at it very closely. Explain to the children that many different colors and strands are woven together to make one cloth. God is like a great weaver. All people are woven together to make one family in God. Discuss:

- How is God's family like a beautiful tapestry?
- Who are the members of God's family?

Allow time for discussion. God makes each of us different. Our differences make the world a more beautiful place. God brings us all together to be part of one family.

Listening to the Word of God

In the gospel reading listen to Jesus pray for us to be part of one family.

Read John 17:20-26. Allow for silence.

Scripture Discussion Starters

- Who does Jesus pray for?
- What does Jesus pray for?
- How does Jesus want us all to live?



Scripture Background

Provide 2-3 minutes of background information on the gospel.

In today's gospel Jesus prays for unity. Jesus prays for all people to live together as one family. Jesus prays for is like a beautiful tapestry woven by God. We are the separate strands woven in and out, over and under to become part of one another and part of God.

Jesus prays that we may be one in God as Jesus and God are one, so that the world may believe in the love that God has for us all. Jesus wants the world to know that God loves all of humanity just as God loves Jesus.

Questions for Deeper Reflection

- How do you live as a member of God's family?
- How can you tell others about God's love?
- How can you thank Jesus for his prayer for unity?

[If you are not going to continue with the doctrinal discussion, proceed to the Activity the Gospel in Life.]

Doctrinal Discussion Starters

Christian Unity

Christians of many churches have worked for unity among believers. Ecumenism is the movement to achieve unity among all the Christian churches. The Catholic Church teaches that unity is a gift given to the Church by Christ (CCC820). The source of unity is the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, together as one.

The gift of unity does not mean the absence of differences. Out of our differences we come together as one family, the family of God.

- How does the Church help us to live as God's family?
- How do our differences help to make the world a beautiful place?
- How can we be thankful for our differences?



Activity:

UNITY BRACELET - Teacher can have various sizes and colors of beads for children to string together and tie to make a bracelet, while discussing all different sizes and colors can be UNITED to show God's Love in our world just like the different colors and types of beads form 1 bracelet!

The Gospel in Life

This week try to learn something special about someone who is different from you.

Prayers of Intercession:

Let us pray for the Church,
Let us pray for the world,
Let us pray for those in need,
Let us pray for the St. Joan of Arc community,

REMIND THE CHILDREN TO QUIETLY ENTER CHURCH AND TO CONCENTRATE ON THE PRAYERS AND SONGS FOR OTHER EXAMPLES OF TODAY'S THEME.

Children's Liturgy shared by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ
www.adorers.org

