

An Order of Worship for Use at Home

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

Before you begin, choose a place for your devotion with a table or other flat surface and seating where you are comfortable, whether alone or gathered with your family.

Assemble the following:

A Candle to represent the presence of Christ

A Bible that you can place near the candle

A Cross

If you have others who can share in leading the worship, assign tasks for the reader, the intercessor, and the worship leader. When all are settled, the leader says:

Leader O Lord, open our lips
People **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
People **and clothe us with power from on high. Alleluia.**

As the candle is lit, the leader says:

Leader

Blessed are you, creator God,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your Spirit moved over the face of the waters
bringing light and life to your creation,
pour out your Spirit on us today
that we may walk as children of light
and by your grace reveal your presence.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Let us pray

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Read together or take turns

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.

- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.

- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!

- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,

- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Wonder for a moment about this story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Why did Jesus leave them? Why couldn't he have remained among them as before? In Jerusalem, the disciples gather to wait for the Holy Spirit. At present we are also in a time of waiting. How is our waiting like that of the disciples? How is it different?

The Gospel Reading is from John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give

eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Wonder for a moment about this story of Jesus praying to his Father in heaven. What does Jesus mean when he says, “glorify your Son?” Jesus is praying for his friends, “that they may be one.” How do we become “one?” How is Jesus glorified in us?

If you have time, please also read the sermon from St Augustine on the Ascension.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Benedictus

**All Christ has gone up on high
and has led captivity captive. Alleluia.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, •
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, •
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old •
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, •
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: •
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, •
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, •
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation •
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God •
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, •
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Christ has gone up on high
and has led captivity captive. Alleluia.**

Intercessory Prayer

Leader:

Through Christ, who ever lives to make intercession for us,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lift up our hearts to the heavenly places
and inspire us to serve you as a royal priesthood:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Let all peoples acknowledge your kingdom
and grant on earth the blessing of peace:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

May peace abound and righteousness flourish,
that we may vanquish injustice and wrong:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation,
and grant us the needful gifts of your grace:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ prays,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

Concluding Collect

The Leader says

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Savior Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Savior taught us, so we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

A Prayer During this Time of Separation

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The Conclusion

May the Spirit kindle in us the fire of God's love.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
All Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.