

7th Sunday of Easter C



Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. (Ac 7:59)

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. "I can see heaven thrown open" he said "and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and said aloud, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them"; and with these words he fell asleep.

Second Reading

Apocalypse 22:12-14.16-17.20

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me: "Very soon now, I shall be with you again, bringing the reward to be given to every man according to what he deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city."

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David's line, the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." Let everyone who listens answer, "Come." Then let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

The one who guarantees these revelations repeats his promise: I shall indeed be with you. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them."

Meditation

At the conclusion of the Last Supper discourse, Jesus intercedes with the Father for the unity of all believers. In him the prayer is both made and answered.

Jesus has just given his disciples the great commandment of love. Now he asks his Father for the grace of unity among all believers, the icon of his communion with God. The Lord Jesus speaks here as head of his Body, the Church, which is perfected by the unity of its faith and of its love. Born of the divine love which wills to save the world, it must become the sign of that love given to humanity. Thus is completed the circle begun by the incarnation. Returning to his Father, the Word who has come into the world draws humanity with him into the communal life of God. Jesus has not only manifested the glory of God, he plunges us into it.