

7th Sunday of Easter A



*The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear? (Ps 26,1)*

First Reading

Acts 1:12-14

From the Mount of Olives, as it is called, the apostles went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you."

Meditation

On this Sunday we continue our contemplation of the great Easter mystery. The portion of Jesus' farewell discourse which we read presents the hour of Jesus' glory. In the gospel of John the hour of Jesus' "lifting-up" is at once the hour of his death and that of his glorification. That hour holds the whole mystery of this season: Jesus' dying and rising, his ascension to the Father, his gift of the Spirit.

In that hour Jesus prays for his disciples, for all those who believe in him, that they may share in his glory. But sharing in his glory means participating in the totality of that "hour". Disciples of Jesus join in his sufferings and so come to share in his glory.

Jesus has glorified the Father by finishing his work. Those who belong to him remain in the world, proclaiming the good news that the work of Jesus bestows eternal life. "Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ" (John 17:3). Jesus prays for those to whom he has entrusted the message, but not for them alone. He prays also for all who will believe in him through their word.

This Sunday presents a commission. We must welcome our share in Jesus' hour, both the suffering and the glory. We must join in Jesus' work, that all may be one. He has brought eternal life; he has revealed the Father's name. Through us he continues to reveal it so that the Father's love may live in all and he may live in all.