

MAY 29, 2022
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus prays for us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | John 17:20-26 | Jesus prays for his disciples |
| Monday | Acts 16:16-34 | Paul and Silas in prison |
| Tuesday | Revelation 22:12-21 | Christ is coming soon |
| Wednesday | Romans 8:26-30 | A wonderful future for God's people |
| Thursday | Romans 8:31-39 | God's love in Christ Jesus |
| Friday | Hebrews 7:22-28 | Our Lord is a priest |
| Saturday | Psalms 97 | The Lord brings justice |
| Sunday | John 14:8-17, 25-27 | Jesus promises the Holy Spirit |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"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." John 17:20-21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, just as you and Jesus are one, give us the grace and mercy to be one with you and with all believers so that the world may see and believe. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your love for us and all the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus, the Holy One of God, be with you. (Revelation 22:21)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Jesus, I Have Promised



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What words would you use to describe someone with whom you have a close relationship?
- How do your relationships with friends compare with the kind of relationship you would like to have with God?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 17:20-26.

The Gospel of John is a favorite book of the Bible for Christian mystics, those who focus on the indwelling of God's presence in the life of the believer. In John 17, Jesus begins his prayer by praying for himself, then for the disciples with him. Jesus also prays for us, the future generations of believers. It is a powerful prayer that extends to us the intimacy Jesus has with the heavenly Father. It is parental language that is itself filled with closeness. The relationship is extended to us all so that we may be as close to God as Jesus is. The original Greek language used in John 13:23 about the loved disciple suggests being close to the heart of Jesus. It is the imagery used by the mystics that announces the dramatically intimate relationship we have with God through Jesus. This is an intimacy that knows the suffering, love and glory of God. It is also a closeness that opens us to love the world like God loves the world through Jesus.

Discuss: How do you experience closeness to God through prayer?

Pray: **God of love and glory, give us hearts to love you and to love the world that you love through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how do you pray and show care for the world that God loves?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus prays for us to have a close relationship with other believers and with God. Take time this week to sit in silence and imagine God's presence in and all around you through Christ, the Alpha and the Omega (Revelation 22:13), the beginning and the end. Conclude by praying: **God, you search my heart and know the mind of the Spirit. May the Spirit pray for all the saints according to your will. Amen.** (Romans 8:27)



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