

Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A

John 17:1-11

1 Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; 2 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. 3 And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4 I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. 6 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. 7 Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; 8 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.

9 I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: 10 all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. 11 I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

Other readings: Acts 1:12-14 Psalm 26 (27) 1 Peter 4:13-16

These are the opening words of the prayer that the evangelist attributes to Jesus at the Last Supper, on the night before he died. Jesus speaks of the hour, towards which his whole life has been directed. Jesus prays that the Father will glorify him. This will happen through his death and resurrection, and the subsequent raising of Christ, with his risen humanity, to the presence of God. Through this Easter mystery eternal life is bestowed on those who believe.

The work of Jesus is now complete, and he prays for those who through his preaching have come to know the Father's name. He distinguishes them from the world which does not know or accept him. These true disciples have realized that Jesus comes from the Father and that his teaching is true and reliable.

Jesus stresses that his prayer is for those who believe and not for the world. While Jesus is soon to leave this world, his faithful followers will remain to continue his work. They will be supported by the prayer of Christ to the Father.

What does Jesus mean when he says he is glorified?

How best can we hold firm to the teaching Jesus has given us?

Pray that the Church will be always aware of the prayer of Christ on our behalf.

Pray for strong faith which trusts that where Jesus has gone we too will follow.