

7th Sunday of Easter

1st June 2025 - Readings

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60

In those days: Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96: 1-2, 6-7, 9

R/. The Lord is king most high above all the earth..

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
His throne is justice and right. **R/.**

The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory.
All you spirits, worship him. **R/.**

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all spirits. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
22:12-14, 16-17, 20

I, John, heard a voice saying to me, 'Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.' Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Jn 14:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you,
and your hearts will be full of joy.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and praying said, '[Holy Father,] I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.





7th SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Sunday 1st June 2025

Saint Justin, Martyr (- 165)

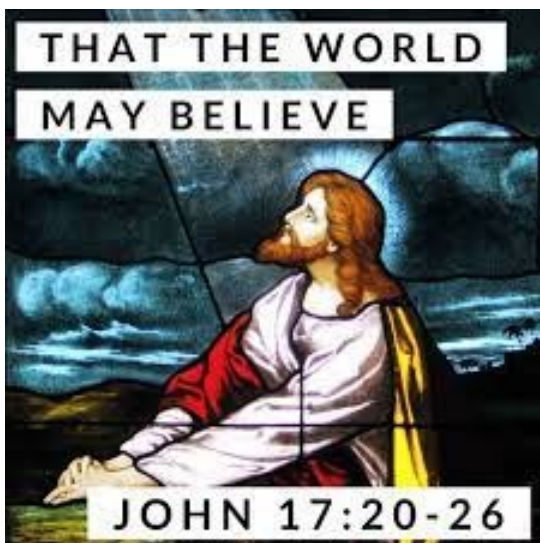
On the seventh Sunday of Easter, we always read from the 17th chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter of John's Gospel comes at the conclusion of Jesus' Farewell Discourse delivered to the disciples at the Last Supper. The whole of this chapter is a prayer of Jesus, commending himself to the Father and expressing his care and concern for his disciples. At the end of this prayer, Jesus and his disciples depart for the garden, and Jesus is arrested.

Several important themes appear in this prayer of Jesus. First, Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the one who pre-existed with the Father and as the one sent by the Father to do his work on earth. In today's reading, we hear Jesus ask that the unity he experiences with the Father be extended to all who believe in him. He prays that we be one with each other, with him, and with the Father. We are reminded that Christ is the source of Christian unity. Through Christ, we are united with one another and with God our Father.

Belief is a major theme in the Gospel of John. It begins in the prologue and continues in the response to Jesus' signs. Belief is the reason Jesus performs signs (2:11, 4:53, 6:69, 9:38) and the reason signs have been recorded in the Gospel (20:30-31). Here Jesus prays not only for those who believe in him but for all who will come to believe in him. And he prays that the love of the Father in him may also be in all who believe so that Jesus might be in them as well.

He was born at the beginning of the second century in Nablus, in Samaria, of a pagan Greek family. He was an earnest seeker after truth, and studied many systems of philosophy before being led, through Platonism, to Christianity. While remaining a layman, he accepted the duty of making the truth known, and travelled from place to place proclaiming the gospel. In 151 he travelled from Ephesus to Rome, where he opened a school of philosophy and wrote defences and expositions of Christianity, which have survived to this day and are the earliest known writings of their kind. In the persecution of 165, in the reign of the emperor Marcus Aurelius, he was denounced as a Christian, arrested and beheaded. The transcript of his trial by the prefect of Rome, Rusticus, has also survived: it can be found in today's Office of Readings.

Justin treats the Greek philosophy that he studied as mostly true, but incomplete. In contrast to the Hebrew tendency to view God as making revelations to them and to no-one else, he follows the parable of the Sower, and sees God as sowing the seed of wisdom throughout the world, to grow wherever the soil would receive it.



Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for our Diocese

Generous God you have called us to be salt and light in this great city;
Guide us by your Holy Spirit to discern your will for your Church as we seek to follow your Son Jesus Christ in loving and serving our neighbours.

Give us the wisdom and strength to fulfil the vision you put before us and help us to play our part in transforming our earthly city into a sign of the Heavenly Jerusalem where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God now and for ever.

Amen