

ABOUT the SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Theme: The church in the world
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week –*

Everything was in place; the disciples had been trained and commissioned as Jesus' apostles, His personal, authorized representatives. (Acts) Yet one thing they lacked: the Holy Spirit had not yet come. In His power they would be His witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Now the Spirit has come; His glorious presence rests upon all the faithful. (1 Peter) Therefore the faithful are targets of the evil one; suffering is no surprise for the faithful. As Jesus suffered before us, so we rejoice to have a share in His sufferings, knowing we shall also share in His glory. Yet we are not alone; Jesus Christ prays for His church. (John) The night of His betrayal, anticipating the revelation of His glory upon His cross, Jesus prayed for everyone who would receive the Word He Himself had received from the Father. Invoking the Father's Holy Name He prayed that all those who believe in Him would be protected in the power of that Name. Therefore we are at peace even in the midst of chaos - the peace of Christ which passes all understanding.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and thanksgivings to our heavenly Father.

Sunday	Acts 1:12-26 What did Jesus promise His disciples? For what purpose? Where did He go? When will He come back? What did the eleven do? How is this done among us?
Monday	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11 What is the purpose of suffering among Christians? What is the reason for joy in suffering? Why is insult because of the name of Christ a blessing? What should we do with our anxieties? What is the devil looking for? How does he gain a foothold in times of suffering? What instead should we do? How is this done?
Tuesday	John 17:1-11 To whom is Jesus talking? About whom? About what? Where did Jesus get His words? To whom did He give them? Where do we hear them now? Who is Jesus praying for? What is the main thrust of His prayer? What confidence does this bring you?
Wednesday	Psalm 113 This psalm is one of the so-called "Hallel Psalms." Why? Make a list of the reasons to praise the LORD. How does this relate to us today?
Thursday	Numbers 11:24-30 What is the context of this curious event? What happened? Why? How does it relate to Pentecost? What does this mean?
Friday	Acts 2:1-21 What sound was heard on Pentecost? What sight was seen? What was the first result of the Holy Spirit's coming? What were the apostles declaring in other tongues? How is this done among us in our tongue? For what purpose? What therefore is the main work of the Holy Spirit? What does this mean?
Saturday	John 7:37-39 What did Jesus mean by "living water" (water that brings life)? What evidences of spiritual thirst do you detect in our world? In yourself? How alone may this thirst be quenched? What does this mean?