

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## An Intimate Union

God who dwells among us,  
we are grateful for the life  
you share with us,  
a life of shared union  
with your Son, Jesus, our Lord,  
and the Holy Spirit who guides us.  
Give us hearts that are open to  
your love,  
and the courage to share that love  
even in the face of rejection.  
May we, like Jesus, grounded in  
your love,  
seek unity with our brothers  
and sisters.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 29, 2022  
Jesus' Prayer for Us



*Today's readings: Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 97:1–26–7, 9; Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20; John 17:20–26.* In today's Gospel, Jesus expresses a desire that the Father love his followers just as he loves his Beloved Son. He prays: "That the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them." This prayer is for us as well as the disciples two thousand years ago. Jesus wants us to know the depth of God's love in every moment of our lives.

Jesus' prayer to the Father is not just that followers be embraced with love but that they be brought into a union with God. He implores "that they may also be one. As you, Father, are in me and I in you may they also be in us."

In this prayer we see Jesus' desire for unity with all of God's children.

When life is most challenging, it is good to remember that Jesus prays for us to know and believe in God's love. These prayers assist us in witnessing to our friends and community that God is near. The gift of Easter is that we know and believe that the darkness of this world has no power over us, that sin and struggle will never have the last word. As we await the celebration of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, are you willing and open to witness to the joy of the Gospel to a world so in need of God's love and mercy?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 30**

### Take Courage

Jesus tells his disciples, “In the world you face persecution. But take courage, I have conquered the world.” When we spread the Gospel, we do so knowing that Jesus has gone before us, and that his persecution, death, and rising, offer eternal life. We do not face the trouble in our lives by ourselves; our faith reminds us that we are never alone. *Today’s readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

**Tuesday, May 31**

### Blessed Encounters

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Once Mary hears about her cousin Elizabeth being with child, as she is herself, the Gospel tells us she travels in haste to be with her. Elizabeth’s greeting was both a comfort and affirmation for Mary. Today remember and pray in gratitude for the people in your life who, in times of challenge, support you. *Today’s readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a or Romans 12:9–16; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Luke 1:39–56.*

**Wednesday, June 1**

### What Is the Truth?

For his disciples and for us, Jesus prays, “Sanctify them in the truth.” The prayer commits us to being and saying what is true. Pray for the grace to know the truth in your life, and to be a witness of what is true—that is, every human being is created in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. Imagine a world that recognizes this truth. *Today’s readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

**Thursday, June 2**

### Being One

What would our world look like if we believed that we are all called to be one as Jesus is with his Father? In and through our baptism, we are united with God and others in our faith community, and because of this union, we are to be a witness to others. How would striving for unity with all Christians change the way you pray, the way you live, and the way you make present God’s love in our world? *Today’s readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

**Friday, June 3**

### God Is Good and Kind

One of the songs from the musical *Godspell* was adapted from today’s Psalm 103 “Bless the Lord, O my soul.” The song and psalm remind us to remember the goodness and kindness of God. When was the last time you paused to thank God for something good in your life? When have you felt God’s abundant kindness in your life? *Today’s readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

**Saturday, June 4**

### Stories to Guide Us

Scripture is a living, breathing revelation of God’s life with humanity. Stories in the Bible are rooted in a certain time and place. But each of those stories holds a truth that is still relevant today. In our living out of our faith we continue to breathe life into the words of Scripture. Take some time soon to sit down with Scripture, discover the stories of our ancestors in faith, get to know Jesus better, and embrace the challenge of discipleship. *Today’s readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*

