



Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish

Gospel Reflection Small Group

Outline for week ending June 2, 2019

7th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary: 61

Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Lord God, we open our hearts, minds and souls to worship to you. Thank you that today we dwell in your kingdom and live in your presence. Thank you that as we gather together, we join with all Catholic Christians across the world to glorify your holy name. Come be with us, inspire us and lead us in our time together. We ask all this in the beautiful name of Jesus. Amen.

This Day in the Church:

Saints Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs (304)

Gospel Reading Background:

The Prayer of Jesus (at The Last Supper)

Gospel Reading:

John 17:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:

"Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

Reflections:

1. What phrase or phrases mean the most to you? Why?
2. Who do you identify most with? Why?
3. How does this passage relate to the world today?

Study Guide:

This section is the climax of the last discourses (which started back at the beginning of chapter 13, The Book of Glory, The Washing of the Disciples Feet (at the Last Supper)). Since the 16th century, this chapter has been called the “high priestly prayer” of Jesus. He speaks as intercessor, with words addressed directly to the Father and not to the disciples, who supposedly only overhear. Yet the prayer is one of petition, for immediate and future disciples. Many phrases reminiscent of the Lord’s Prayer occur. Although still in the world Jesus looks on his earthly ministry as a thing of the past. Whereas Jesus has up to this time stated that the disciples could follow him, now he wishes them to be with him in union with the Father.

Where I am: Jesus prays for the believers ultimately to join him in heaven. Then they will not see his glory as in a mirror but clearly. **I will make it known:** through the Advocate (the Holy Spirit).

Fulfillment

None

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

820 "Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning. This unity, we believe, subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose, and we hope that it will continue to increase until the end of time." Christ always gives his Church the gift of unity, but the Church must always pray and work to maintain, reinforce, and perfect the unity that Christ wills for her. This is why Jesus himself prayed at the hour of his Passion, and does not cease praying to his Father, for the unity of his disciples: "That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us, . . . so that the world may know that you have sent me." The desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit

Group Intercessions:

[Ask each participant if they have any specific prayer intentions that they would like the group to pray for. It may be a good idea to start a group prayer intention book and the leader can read from it each week and add new requests as needed.]

Closing Prayer:

In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Thank you that we can live in your light and walk in your truth. May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action. We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.