



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

24 May 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter - Séptimo Domingo de Pascua

Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

Other announcements

- There is a video presentation of Mass. You may access it from the front page of St. Paul website at <https://spcath.org> It may be not be posted until late Saturday or early Sunday.
 - Happy birthday to Regina D. this Wednesday.
 - Prayers for Ruth Ellen, ill at home for several weeks, and also for Phillip who has taken care of her.
 - Prayers also for Caroline, recovering from surgery and already home.
 - I have listened to your opinions regarding a weekday Mass. I have watched the reports of other churches who tried and infected the faithful. I will not risk your safety. There will be no Mass next Sunday; perhaps longer. We will watch the news carefully and evaluate. Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date.
- Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>



In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.



We pray

Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

† Amen

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



May the Lord have mercy on you,
find goodness in you,
pardon and deliver you from your sins;
and bring you to everlasting life.



Collect

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Gospel John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed." "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."



Homily

These several chapters of John are called The Last Supper Discourses. The Gospel quotes Jesus praying for the Church that will be. When Jesus prays to God, God surely listens.

This is a big moment in the New Testament. The last supper is finished. Christ and the disciples have a very solemn conversation and anxiety is upon the disciples. Jesus describes what will happen over the course of the night and the next day.

Then Jesus prays for everyone (even you and I today)... everyone to be one with God, the way he is one with God at that moment. He exalts God, his father, "The glory you gave me I have given to them."

Two thousand years later we are the ones who live in that prayer. It was answered. Look at the Christian world today. It thrives even in the face of human assaults in the form of greed, politics, and crime of all sorts. People worship God.

God has several names in the many languages of the world; and there are people who worship God that perhaps are not worshippers of Jesus Christ. But they worship in their own way and they are not wrong, just different in how God is in their lives.

In this prayer Jesus declared that the children God gave him will also know God as he does. Will all people of the world eventually be Christians then?

I think that's what Jesus said here. How long does that take? A few more years? Probably. Let's share some of that love for all the people in the world. That's what we were commanded, not asked, to do. We should let the work of the Apostles carry on. We should not judge those who worship differently from the way we do as Christians.

The divine mission, which was given by Christ to the Apostles, is destined to last until the end of the world. The Gospel, which they were charged to preach and pass on, is for the Church and is the model of Christianity for all time.



Bishops of the Christian Churches are successors of Peter and the Apostles, holding the authority of the Apostles and proclaiming the same teaching. Whoever hears the word of the successors hears the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Unity within the Church is for the benefit of everyone and the Church can live as something for the whole world to see.

In the second century the Christians called the Church *catholic* in order to distinguish it from other groups and cells of worshippers who were not in line with the succession of Bishops and who, they felt, departed from the true word.

The origin of the word *catholic* means universal. The word, the truth, the way of worship in Christianity had spread out universally.

The scholars and leaders of Christianity wanted its practice to be applied universally also. Sometimes with a heavy hand, they declared it the only manner of worshipping the one true God. With an even heavier hand they made war to bring the Good News to the nations of the world.

History is full of accounts of the Crusades and other violence in the name of God. What kind of love is that?

In later years after the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the leaders of the church fought over who would be the Bishop to lead the church. The successors of the Apostles bickered over who should be in charge and came to no agreement. So they split into three groups, each with its own Patriarch, but retaining a catholic or universal position as a Church of Jesus Christ.

Later in history people would depart from the Church and call themselves Protestant, but still worshippers of Jesus Christ.

And, some years later, even the Roman Catholic Church would experience a schism, wherein Catholics left the jurisdiction of the Vatican to continue being Catholics in their own way.

Perhaps church leaders throughout the world should read today's Gospel, read it twice. The Bible has been around for a long time. How many Bishops skipped this Gospel we read today and failed to come to agreement with their brothers in Christ? Some church leaders should review this Gospel and then send it to the Presidents and Prime ministers around the world. How many leaders of nations chose politics and personal greed instead of faith in God?

Every Christian should have the same desire for this unity as Jesus Christ expresses in this monumental prayer to his Father.

Christ left God and us a wish for unity in his prayer: ..."that they may also be in us, so that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

Not just unity, not just belief in the word of Jesus, but one more thing. Jesus asks that all Christians attain the blessedness of Heaven. That specifies that He asks for the most important thing of all, our eternal life with God in heaven.

You should pray today, pray every day, that we and all who believe in Christ may be found worthy to follow him into eternity. His Ascension is our hope, guiding us as we make our way to the place that he has prepared for us.



Evangelio Juan 17:1-11

Jesús miró al cielo y dijo: «Padre, la hora ha llegado: glorifica a tu Hijo, para que también él te glorifique a ti. Pues tú has dado a tu Hijo autoridad sobre todo hombre, para dar vida eterna a todos los que le diste. Y la vida eterna consiste en que te conozcan a ti, el único Dios verdadero, y a Jesucristo, a quien tú enviaste. »Yo te he glorificado aquí en el mundo, pues he terminado la obra que tú me confiaste. Ahora, pues, Padre, dame en tu presencia la misma gloria que yo tenía contigo desde antes que existiera el mundo. »A los que escogiste del mundo para dármeles, les he hecho saber quién eres. Eran tuyos, y tú me los diste, y han hecho caso de tu palabra. Ahora saben que todo lo que me diste viene de ti; pues les he dado el mensaje que me diste, y ellos lo han aceptado. Se han dado cuenta de que en verdad he venido de ti, y han creído que tú me enviaste. »Yo te ruego por ellos; no ruego por los que son del mundo, sino por los que me diste, porque son tuyos. Todo lo que es mío es tuyo, y lo que es tuyo es mío; y mi gloria se hace visible en ellos. »Yo no voy a seguir en el mundo, pero ellos sí van a seguir en el mundo, mientras que yo me voy para estar contigo. Padre santo, cuídalos con el poder de tu nombre, el nombre que me has dado, para que estén completamente unidos, como tú y yo.»



Homilía

Estos varios capítulos de Juan se llaman Los Discursos de la Última Cena. El Evangelio cita a Jesús orando por la Iglesia que será. Cuando Jesús ora a Dios, Dios seguramente escucha.

Este es un gran momento en el Nuevo Testamento. La última cena ha terminado. Cristo y los discípulos tienen una conversación muy solemne y la ansiedad está sobre los discípulos. Jesús describe lo que sucederá en el transcurso de la noche y al día siguiente.

Entonces Jesús ora por todos (incluso tú y yo hoy) ... todos para ser uno con Dios, de la misma manera que él es uno con Dios en ese momento. Él exalta a Dios, su padre, "La gloria que me diste les he dado".

Dos mil años después somos nosotros quienes vivimos en esa oración. Fue respondido. Mira el mundo cristiano hoy. Prospera incluso ante los ataques humanos en forma de avaricia, política y crimen de todo tipo. La gente adora a Dios.

Dios tiene varios nombres en los muchos idiomas del mundo; y hay personas que adoran a Dios que quizás no son adoradores de Jesucristo. Pero adoran a su manera y no están equivocados, solo son diferentes en cómo Dios está en sus vidas.

En esta oración, Jesús declaró que los hijos que Dios le dio también conocerán a Dios como él. ¿Todas las personas del mundo serán cristianas entonces?

Creo que eso es lo que Jesús dijo aquí. ¿Cuánto tiempo lleva eso? ¿Unos años más? Probablemente. Compartamos algo de ese amor por todas las personas en el mundo. Eso es lo que se nos ordenó, no se nos pidió, hacer. Deberíamos dejar que la obra de los Apóstoles continúe. No debemos juzgar a los que adoran de manera diferente a como lo hacemos los cristianos.

La misión divina, que fue dada por Cristo a los Apóstoles, está destinada a durar hasta el fin del mundo. El Evangelio, que fueron encargados de predicar y transmitir, es para la Iglesia y es el modelo del cristianismo de todos los tiempos.

Los obispos de las Iglesias cristianas son sucesores de Pedro y los Apóstoles, tienen la autoridad de los Apóstoles y proclaman la misma enseñanza. Quien escucha la palabra de los sucesores escucha las enseñanzas de Jesucristo.

La unidad dentro de la Iglesia es para el beneficio de todos y la Iglesia puede vivir como algo para que todo el mundo vea.

En el siglo II, los cristianos llamaron a la Iglesia *católica* para distinguirla de otros grupos y células de fieles que no estaban en línea con la sucesión de los obispos y que, según ellos, se apartaron de la palabra verdadera.

El origen de la palabra *católica* significa universal. La palabra, la verdad, la forma de adoración en el cristianismo se había extendido universalmente.

Los eruditos y líderes del cristianismo querían que su práctica se aplicara universalmente también. A veces con mano dura, declararon que era la única forma de adorar al único Dios verdadero. Con una mano aún más pesada hicieron la guerra para llevar las Buenas Nuevas a las naciones del mundo.

La historia está llena de relatos de las cruzadas y otras violencias en nombre de Dios. ¿Qué clase de amor es ese?

En años posteriores al sacrificio de Jesucristo, los líderes de la iglesia se pelearon por quién sería el Obispo para dirigir la iglesia. Los sucesores de los Apóstoles discutieron sobre quién debería estar a cargo y no llegaron a un acuerdo. Entonces se dividieron en tres grupos, cada uno con su propio Patriarca, pero conservando una posición católica o universal como Iglesia de Jesucristo.

Más adelante en la historia, la gente se apartaría de la Iglesia y se llamaría protestante, pero aún adoradores de Jesucristo.

Y, algunos años después, incluso la Iglesia Católica Romana experimentaría un cisma, en el que los católicos abandonaron la jurisdicción del Vaticano para continuar siendo católicos a su manera.

Quizás los líderes de la iglesia en todo el mundo deberían leer el Evangelio de hoy, leerlo dos veces. La Biblia ha existido por mucho tiempo. ¿Cuántos obispos se saltaron este Evangelio que leemos hoy y no llegaron a un acuerdo con sus hermanos en Cristo? Algunos líderes de la iglesia deberían revisar este Evangelio y luego enviarlo a los presidentes y primeros ministros de todo el mundo. ¿Cuántos líderes de naciones eligieron la política y la codicia personal en lugar de la fe en Dios?

Todo cristiano debe tener el mismo deseo de esta unidad que Jesucristo expresa en esta monumental oración a su Padre.

Cristo dejó a Dios y a nosotros un deseo de unidad en su oración: ... "para que también ellos puedan estar en nosotros, para que el mundo crea que Tú me enviaste".

No solo la unidad, no solo la creencia en la palabra de Jesús, sino una cosa más. Jesús pide que todos los cristianos alcancen la bendición del cielo. Eso especifica que Él pide lo más importante de todo, nuestra vida eterna con Dios en el cielo.

Debes orar hoy, orar todos los días, para que nosotros y todos los que creemos en Cristo seamos dignos de seguirlo hasta la eternidad. Su Ascensión es nuestra esperanza, guiándonos mientras nos dirigimos al lugar que él nos ha preparado.

