

FIRST READING

I can see the heavens thrown open
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

7:55-60

SStephen was filled with the Holy Spirit.

He looked toward heaven,
where he saw our glorious God and Jesus standing at his right side.
Then Stephen said, "I see heaven open
and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!"

The council members shouted and covered their ears.
At once they all attacked Stephen and dragged him out of the city.
Then they started throwing stones at him.
the men who had brought charges against him
put their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

As Stephen was being stoned to death, he called out,
"Lord Jesus, please welcome me!"
He kneeled down and shouted,
"Lord, don't blame them for what they have done."
Then he died.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

97:1, 6, 9

*R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.*

The Lord is King!
Tell the earth to celebrate
and all islands to shout.

*R. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.*

The heavens announce,
"The Lord brings justice!"
Everyone sees God's glory.

R. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

The Lord rules the whole earth,
and he is more glorious
than all the false gods.

R. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

See John 14:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord says: I will not leave you orphans.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

May they be completely one.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

17:20-21

Jesus prayed to God:

"Father, I am not praying just for these followers.
I am also praying for everyone else who will have faith
because of what my followers will say about me.
I want all of them to be one with each other,
just as I am one with you
and you are one with me.
I also want them to be one with us.
Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.