

7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Cycle C

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, we believe that you made us in your image to be like you. We believe that you sent Jesus to us to show us how to live and how to be happy. We believe that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always and help us to be like you. Thank you, God. Thank you very much! Amen.

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60 (Listen to or sing a Psalm/Song) John 17:20-21 (or Mt 28:16-20)

REFLECTION WITH DISCUSSION

Do you think that Jesus prayed? He certainly did. As a human being he certainly needed divine help! The reading we just heard from John's Gospel is a part of the prayer Jesus prayed the night before he died. **What did he say to God?** He prayed for all the people who followed him, who listened to his teachings and who learned to have faith in God. You can tell he was very thankful for them and he prayed that they all would be one with each other and be one with God. He prayed for unity. He wanted them to be united.

What does it mean to be united? Let's start with your family. What kinds of things help unite your family? (eat together, play together, pray together, help each other, do nice things for one another, compliment each other...) What kinds of things help unite your class at school? (....)

Here's another thing that helps us be united. It has to do with Jesus sending us the Holy Spirit. You know that after Jesus died, God the Father raised him from the dead. (Easter) The apostles could still see Jesus now and then. He appeared to them at different times. Then after 40 days of this, God the Father took Jesus to heaven and they could not see him anymore. We call this his "Ascension into heaven." Just before he left them, he said, "Continue to be my disciples and make more disciples. Baptize them." He told them how to baptize. What words are to be used at baptism? (I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.)

Jesus also said, "Remember, I am with you always. I send my Holy Sprit to be with you." After some time, the apostles realized that even though they could no longer see Jesus, his Spirit was still with them. And the Spirit helped them be more united. They remembered all the things Jesus had taught them about being happy. By remembering Jesus, his Spirit was with them. What was the main thing Jesus taught them? (Love one another.) If we love one another, there will be unity – we will be united.

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Let's try to remember the last words of Jesus: I am with you always! When you feel like being unkind to some one, remember the Holy Spirit is with you and will help you be kind. Do you sometimes actually feel Jesus is helping you – do you really feel this power in your heart? Think about it!

ACTIVITY

Let's stand in pairs, two people facing each other. We will remind each other of our Baptism. We don't want to forget. Now each one says to the other one: "You were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

CREED

As we begin to profess our faith this morning, we make the Sign of the Cross together: In the name of the Father....

Do you believe in God the Father who created you? Yes, we believe. Do you believe in Jesus who ascended into heaven? Yes, we believe. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who is with us always? Yes, we believe.

PETITIONS

Let's stand in a circle. A circle is a sign of our unity. Do you remember what Jesus prayed for the night before He died? (I want all of them to be one with each other, to be united) Praying is one of the things that help us be united. So let's pray. Spontaneous petitions.

Close with the same prayer as the Opening Prayer.