



Seventh Sunday Of Easter

Praying For The Spirit

Introduction

We, the disciples of Jesus, are gathered here this morning in his name. We are doing what he asked his apostles to do: to wait in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit the apostles were like a sailboat without the wind. If they needed the Holy Spirit, how much more do we need him? We who are weak and cowardly, and who find it so hard to disentangle ourselves from sin and to follow Christ without counting the cost.

First Reading (Acts 1:15-17, 20-26)

The defection of Judas left a gap, which had to be filled. This reading tells us how Matthias was chosen to fill that gap.

Second Reading (1 John 4:11-16)

Since God has loved us, we too must love one another.

Gospel (John 17:11-19)

The disciples are being sent into the world to carry on the work of Jesus. Jesus prays to his Father for them and for us.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Let us pray for the coming of the Spirit and for those things that Jesus prayed for.

R: Come, Holy Spirit.

For the Church: that it may be a sign of unity and an instrument of peace in the world. Let us pray.

R: Come, Holy Spirit.

For all our leaders: that they may be true to their word and faithful to their obligations. Let us pray.

R: Come, Holy Spirit.



For those Christians who have strayed from the part of Christ's truth and who are living in the darkness of prejudice and bigotry. Let us pray.

R: Come, Holy Spirit.

For those who are struggling against evil or against pain and despair. Let us pray.

R: Come, Holy Spirit.

Communion Reflection

Choosing a replacement for Judas:

In choosing a replacement for Judas the early Church realized they were picking someone who would be a leader in the community.

What qualities did they look for?

Basically two.

First of all: faithfulness.

He would have to be someone who was there from the start.

that is, not some recent "blow-in",
but someone who had already proved himself.

This was an exterior thing.

something therefore they could judge for themselves.

Secondly: integrity of heart.

This is an interior thing,
something therefore God alone can judge.

Hence the need for prayer.

Matthias was the man they chose.

Lord, you call each of us
to be a witness to your resurrection,
that is, to prove to the world by the way we live
that you are alive in us.

Send your Holy Spirit to dwell in us,

so that we may be like Matthias :

people of integrity of heart,

who follow you through thick and thin.