



Liturgy Cycle C

## **Seventh Sunday Of Easter** **Waiting**

### **Introduction**

After Jesus left them, the apostles went back to Jerusalem and 'joined in continuous prayer' as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. At the invitation of the Church, that is exactly what we are doing during these days between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost. Without the Spirit of Jesus to guide and inspire us we simply cannot live the life of a Christian. Let us briefly reflect on this.

### **First Reading (Acts 7:55-60)**

This recounts the death of the first martyr, Stephen. Like Christ, Stephen died forgiving his killers.

### **Second Reading (Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20)**

The time has come for God to reward his servants. Christ comes to give eternal life to all those who have followed him.

### **Gospel (John 17:20-26)**

This is part of the great prayer which Jesus made on behalf of his present and future disciples during the last supper. He prayed especially for unity among them.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Christ has ascended into glory. But he will not leave us orphans or without a guide. He will send us the one he promised, the gift of the Father, the Spirit of truth. Let us pray for the Spirit.

R: Lord, send us your Spirit.

For all the Church: that the Holy Spirit may renew its life and make it radiant with hope. Let us pray.

R: Lord, send us your Spirit.

For all rulers and governments: that the Holy Spirit may guide them and help them to be wise and courageous. Let us pray.

R: Lord, send us your Spirit.

For all who suffer persecution for the name of Christ: that the Holy Spirit may help them to be strong in times of trial and difficulty. Let us pray.

R: Lord, send us your Spirit.

That the Holy Spirit may help us awaken to the gifts and talents God has given us and help us to use and develop them. Let us pray.

R: Lord, send us your Spirit.



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### **Communion Reflection**

**There was a bad flood  
and the cellar of Thomas' house filled up with water.  
A man came by in a canoe and said:  
'Do you want a lift to safety?'  
'No,' said Thomas. 'I have faith in God. He will save me.'**

**The water rose and flooded the ground floor.  
Thomas was forced to go upstairs.  
A man in a motor boat came by  
and offered to take him to safety, but Thomas said:  
'I have faith in God. He will save me.'**

**The water rose higher still  
and Thomas had to take to the roof.  
A helicopter came by  
and the pilot offered to take him to safety.  
But once again Thomas declined, saying:  
'I have faith in God. He will save me.'  
And he sat there waiting for God.**

**But the water continued to rise and he drowned.  
On arriving in heaven he said angrily to God:  
'I had faith in you, and still you let me drown.'  
To which God replied:  
'Not once, but three times, I sent you help,  
and each time you refused it.'**

**We don't always recognise God's help when it comes.**