

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Psalm of Seeking

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me. Amen.
—Psalm 27:1, 4, 7–9.

Sunday, June 5, 2011 Jesus' Prayer for Us

Today's Readings: Acts 1:12–14; 1 Peter 4:13–16; John 17:1–11a. In today's Gospel, we overhear Jesus praying to the Father on our behalf. How bracing to learn his hopes for us and to hear him say: “They do not belong to the world.” Our truest, Christian selves don't respond to the world's hype; we don't believe advertisers who promise to make us young and desirable if we use their products. We are not preoccupied by breathless gossip about celebrities. How annoying Christians must be to marketers!

Jesus knows the tension that will always exist between his followers and their environment. So he highlights our true identity: we belong to God. The meaning of life is to

know God: not a distant, punitive figure, but a compassionate friend. This helps us prioritize: if everything else (career, family, friendships, leisure activities) takes second place, then we should give a great deal of time and energy to exploring, enjoying, and reverencing God.

Jesus knows that his disciples will continue to live in the world, even after he leaves it. So he asks his Father's protection for us. As Easter ends, let's look back over the season and consider the highlights, how we've changed, what our highest values are. “We are an Easter people,” the ancients said. How can we carry the spirit of Alleluia, praise and thanks, into the weeks and months ahead?



This Week at Home

Monday, June 6

Optional Memorial of Saint Norbert

After a perilous fall from a horse, a conversion set Norbert (1080–1134) on a path of holiness and zeal. His preaching converted heretics and attracted many to a new order founded in twelfth-century France: the Praemonstratensians, or Norbertines, dedicated to the Eucharist. Priests, nuns, and for the first time, a “third order” of laypeople all had a role in the community. The order continues today. Visit www.premon-tre.org. Today’s Readings: Acts 19:1–8; John 16:29–33.

Tuesday, June 7

New Life; Many Eggs

We associate eggs with Easter because they hold new life. As the season winds down, make this dish the night before for a Sunday brunch:

Melt 1 stick butter or margarine in a 9 x 13” glass pan. Brown 1 cup sausage or bacon, or soften 1 cup vegetables; arrange in the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle with 1 cup grated cheese. Crack 12 eggs over cheese, puncturing yolks. Don’t stir. Sprinkle salt and pepper. Pour $\frac{2}{3}$ cup cream or evaporated milk over egg mixture. Top with another 1 cup cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight. The next morning, uncover and bake at 350° for 30 to 45 minutes. Serves 8 to 10.

Today’s Readings: Acts 20: 17–27; John 17:1–11a.

Wednesday, June 8

Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ

This ground-breaking poet died of typhoid on June 8, 1889, saying, “I am so happy.” Yet much of his life seemed unhappy. After converting to Catholicism and entering the Jesuit order, he stopped writing poetry. The demands of the priesthood and lower level teaching exhausted him. Eventually he wrote again, but struggled with depression. He doubted his accomplishments, and none of his poems were published in his lifetime. Still, he bridged from the Victorian to the modern era with his vivid, original use of language. Hopkins showed that religious poetry needn’t be sentimental or formulaic. His writing ranged from light (a sacramental view of nature)

to dark (the “Terrible Sonnets” where he fights despair). Sample some in an anthology from the library, or search for his poems on the Web. Try “God’s Grandeur,” “Spring,” “The Windhover: to Christ our Lord,” “Spring and Fall,” “The Blessed Virgin Compared to the Air We Breathe,” “The Caged Skylark,” “or “Pied Beauty.” Today’s Readings: Acts 20:28–38; John 17:11b–19.

Thursday, June 9

Optional Memorial of Saint Ephrem

Saint Ephrem (d. 373) is said to be the first to introduce music in Catholic worship; he’s called the “Harp of the Holy Spirit.” He was born in Mesopotamia, but he fled as a refugee to Edessa and taught in the biblical school. Although ordained a deacon, he avoided priesthood. His writing shows great human sympathy and insight on scripture. Today’s Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; John 17:20–26.

Friday, June 10

Praise for Summer Fruit

Another reason to praise God for the abundance of the growing season—the beginning of summer fruits!

Combine 4 cups strawberries, grapes, melons, citrus, or whatever is available in your area. Fruit is delicious plain, but if you want a dressing, stir together 1 Tbsp. fresh lime juice, $\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp. honey and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. peeled fresh ginger. Drizzle it over the fruit. Serves 8.

Allcluia! Allcluia! Allcluia! Today’s Readings: Acts 25:13b–21; John 21:15–19.

Saturday, June 11

Memorial of Saint Barnabas, Apostle

How could Barnabas go wrong, with a name that means “son of encouragement”? He did get a job nobody would want: defending Paul, whom the early Christians feared, because he had persecuted them so vehemently before his conversion. He later traveled widely with Paul, preaching in Cyprus and Greece. Read more of his story in Acts 9–15. Today’s Readings: Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3; John 21:20–25.



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Keeping the Seasons

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