

Jesus Prays for Us

This Week's Readings at Mass

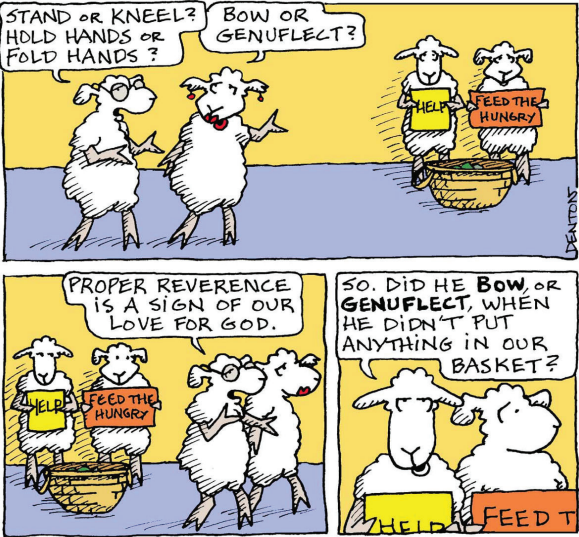
- Acts 1:12-14 • After the Ascension
- Peter 4:13-16 • On Christian suffering
- John 17:1-11a • Jesus prays for his disciples

The reading from Acts of the Apostles today is a story of waiting. Unlike the three days during which the apostles and some women waited in grief and fear after Jesus' death, not knowing he would rise from the dead, joy and expectancy mark these days of waiting. The apostles have experienced Jesus alive with them again and watched his ascension into heaven. Now, upon his instructions, they return to Jerusalem and await the coming of the Holy Spirit, which he has promised.

The second reading, written years after the Acts of the Apostles, is addressing a community which is experiencing great suffering because of their faith in Jesus.

This Gospel reading is a section near the end of the prayer Jesus spoke for his disciples on the night before he died. (The prayer is more than three chapters long.) Jesus knows his death is near and declares that "the hour has come." Unlike the other three Gospels, in John's Gospel, Jesus' death is not recounted as a horrific tragedy but is Jesus' time of glorification. Jesus understands this as the time when he will be reinstated in God's presence as he was before the world began. It is both poetic and a theological discourse on the nature of Jesus and his relationship with the Father.

The last thing Jesus does before his arrest is to pray for "the ones you have given me." This includes both those who were with Jesus on



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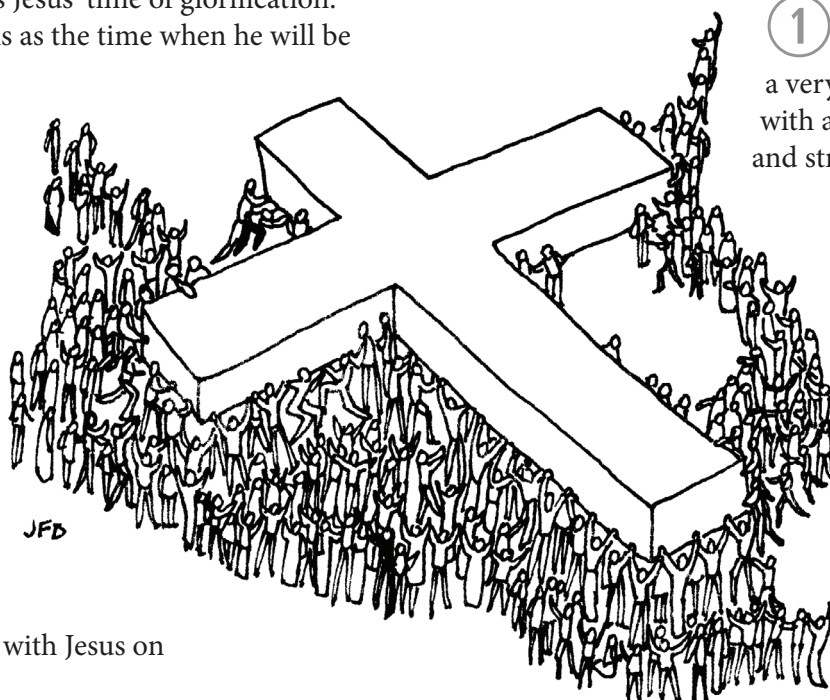
"I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world ... and I have been glorified in them."

Sheepish Question:
How have I acted (or not) recently in a way that glorifies my savior Jesus?

that night, as well as all of us down through the ages who believe in Jesus. He reminds us that we belong to God and that our beliefs and our actions glorify him. While Jesus will no longer be in the world physically, he entrusts us with continuing his mission and embodying his love.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Have you ever had an experience of facing a very difficult experience with a sense of acceptance and strength?
- 2 This week, how can you glorify God by your actions?



Word of the Week
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