

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'Hearts are restless till they find their rest in God'



Today's Collect, quoting from a prayer of St Augustine (a North African bishop who died in 430 AD), refers to the relationship all human beings have with their Creator, who has 'made us for yourself'. However, when we become disconnected from God our hearts grow 'restless' and seek satisfaction in the wrong things. Pray that we will grow in the knowledge of God's love and find our eternal home in him.

The Gathering

THE GREETING

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

The Lord bless you.

(A HYMN may be sung)

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.**

Hope in God,
**for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.**

(Ps. 42:1-2, 5)

PRAYER

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(SONGS may be sung)

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PENITENCE

We have gathered here to worship God, but are conscious of our unworthiness to do so. Jesus challenged the hypocrisy of people who 'honour God with their lips but their hearts are far from him.'

(Mark 7:6)

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God, in penitence and faith:

When we devote much attention to satisfying our bodies but little to satisfying our souls ...
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

When we like to be regarded as followers of Jesus but avoid making any sacrifices for him ...

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

When we say we love God but fail to care for our brothers and sisters in need ...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or
RESPONSES may be used)*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... *(silent prayer)*

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM/HYMN or SCRIPTURAL SONG

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us, and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(A HYMN may be sung)

The Prayers

INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

Father God, we pray for the world, starved of compassion and forgiveness ...

Father, hear our prayer

(R:) and grant us your Spirit.

For the Church, whose witness is often weakened by disunity ...

We pray for bishop N., and all ministers and people, that our life together may bring honour to Christ.

Father, hear our prayer **(R:)**

For all situations of violence, hostility and racial prejudice ... We pray for our leaders, and for peace and justice between nations and within communities.

Father, hear our prayer **(R:)**

For all families struggling in the face of poverty, disadvantage or disability ... We pray that they will have encouragement and support to find a way through their troubles.

Father, hear our prayer **(R:)**

For the lonely and the isolated, the rejected and the long-term unemployed ... We pray that we will not forget them.

Father, hear our prayer **(R:)**

For those who have died, especially ... We pray for their loved ones left behind that comfort and hope will lessen their sorrows.
Father, hear our prayer **(R:)**

For all who are burdened by worry, ill-health or pain ... We pray that they will know relief and healing, through those who care.
Father, hear our prayer **(R:)**

We remember with joy your unfailing love, and pray that we may show our thanks not only with our lips but in our lives.
Hear, O Lord, **and answer all our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Almighty God, give us
wisdom to perceive you,
intellect to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
a vision to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you. Amen**

(St Benedict)

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)