

Thursday of the seventh week of Easter

Thursday 28 May 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Heb 4:16

With boldness let us approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace as a timely help, alleluia.

FIRST READING

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

You must testify at Rome.

Since the tribune wanted to know what precise charge the Jews were bringing against Paul, he freed him and gave orders for a meeting of the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin; then he brought Paul down and stood him in front of them.

Now Paul was well aware that one section was made up of Sadducees and the other of Pharisees, so he called out in the Sanhedrin, 'Brothers, I am a Pharisee and the son of Pharisees. It is for our hope in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.' As soon as he said this a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was split between the two parties. For the Sadducees say there is neither resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, while the Pharisees accept all three. The shouting grew louder, and some of the scribes from the Pharisees' party stood up and protested strongly, 'We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit has spoken to him, or an angel?' Feeling was running high, and the tribune, afraid that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered his troops to go down and haul him out and bring him into the fortress.

Next night, the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Courage! You have borne witness for me in Jerusalem, now you must do the same in Rome.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.1

(R.) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.' O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. **(R.)**
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **(R.)**
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**
4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **(R.)**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 17:21

Alleluia, alleluia!

May all be one as you are, Father, and I in you; let the world believe that you sent me, says the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 17:20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

May they be joined as one.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 16:7

I tell you the truth, it is for your good that I go; for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you, says the Lord, alleluia.