

Easter 7 A : Prayerful preparation

John 17:1-11. *Father, it is time for you to glorify me.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him.

‘And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

‘I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do.

‘Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was.

‘I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

‘Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me.

‘I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified.

‘I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.’

An alternative interpretation of Jesus' prayer from the book
"Surrender" by J. S. Bergan and Sr M. Schwan (1986).

Abba, loving and gracious God,
You have been with me always.
You are with me now as I am about to die.

Hear my prayer
Remember your promise.

I pray
 that your goodness will be revealed
 In my life and in my dying.
 Remember your promise, O God.

I pray
 not for myself

I pray
 for all those I love

I pray
 that my death may be for them
 a new beginning ...
 a beginning
 of seeing and knowing you
 an entry
 into love with you, ...
 a love. Unique.

I pray for them.

Abba, near and compassionate God
 As I am about to leave them,
 I hold in my heart those I most love.

I have planted your name in their hearts. Your word
dwells there.

Be with them. Comfort them. Protect them.

Lead them into healing. Guide them in truth.

Gift them, Lord God, with the joy of being in your presence.

Suggestions for prayer

Try to enter into the mind and heart of Jesus on the night
before he died.

Allow yourself to taste his love and concern for those he
loved.

Use *Lectio Divina* to read the words of the prayer.

What is your feeling response?

Speak to Christ from your heart.

Close with an Our Father.