

Here's a text if you've only a minute...

My heart has prompted me to seek your face;
I seek it Lord; do not hide from me.

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

Psalm

I am the Alpha and the Omega ... the Beginning and the End.

Second Reading

Eternal Father,
reaching from end to end of the universe
and ordering all things with your mighty arm:
for you, time is the unfolding of truth that already is,
the unveiling of beauty that is yet to be.
Your Son has saved us in history by rising from death.
May his presence among us lead to the vision of unlimited truth
and unfold the beauty of your love.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Acts 7: 55–60; Ps. 96 (97); Apoc. 22: 12–14, 16–17, 20; John 17: 20–26



Stephen Broadbent (b. 1961), *Water of Life*,
Chester Cathedral, UK

'Then let all who are
thirsty come;
all who want it may
have the water of life;
and have it free.'

Second Reading

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Seventh Sunday of Easter,
Year C, 29th May 2022

'May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us.'

As the Easter Season draws to an end, today's readings encourage us to deepen our longing for and commitment to unity, so that together we may cry out, 'Come Lord Jesus, Maranatha!'

In the **First Reading**, we meet the first Christian martyr, Stephen. Like Jesus himself, he dies with words of forgiveness for his enemies on his lips.

Just before he enters into his Passion (**Gospel**), Jesus prays for all of his followers, and for all who will come to believe in him (including ourselves). He wants all believers to remain united as a sign of unity and love in a divided world. This oneness is modelled on Christ's own unity with his Father.

In the **Psalm**, we rejoice that God is proclaimed king by all and worshipped by the whole of creation.

In the **Second Reading** from the final chapter of Revelation, Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, promises us that he will come again soon, so that all may drink of the water of life.

This week we pray with Jesus for Christian harmony and unity throughout the world; a unity that values all our diversity and difference. We pray for all places where there is conflict and turbulence, especially Ukraine, and for the courage and strength to live out our lives with wisdom and integrity.



Opening Prayer

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.

Second Reading **Apocalypse 22: 12–14. 16–17.20**

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me: ‘Very soon now, I shall be with you again, bringing the reward to be given to everyone according to what they deserve. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean, so they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David’s line, the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ Let everyone who listens answer, ‘Come.’ Then let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

The one who guarantees these revelations repeats his promise: I shall indeed be with you soon. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

If I can, I come to prayer with a whole-hearted desire to create a space for inner stillness and silence. I pray for a readiness to meet the risen Cosmic Christ in the depth of my being. I ask the Holy Spirit for the spiritual freedom necessary to encounter the Holy One.

I slowly read this text a number of times. I may find the symbolism challenging as a whole, so I allow myself to be drawn to specific words or phrases, and to dwell there, savouring them. I relax into the text and invite its mystery to speak to me ...

With an open mind and heart, I read the scripture again, sensitive to Jesus’s voice speaking directly to me; comforting me with his presence ...

Perhaps I now choose to speak to Jesus. I share my anxieties, whether for myself, or for our uncertain, troubled world.

I ask Christ my Saviour to enrich and enliven my own hope and faith, and that of my sisters and brothers. I pray that all shall know him as the risen Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, and trust in his promises of *life*.

I ponder where I ‘*feed on the tree of life*’ ... drink from ‘*the water of life*’ ...

Maybe I feel the Lord inviting me to create an internal space and freedom in my heart to deepen my life with him.

I slowly end my prayer with the words, ‘*Come, Lord Jesus, come*’.

Gospel **John 17: 20–26**

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 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 I have loved them as much as you love me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so 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 the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so I may be in them.

Aware that God desires my company, I begin my prayer time gently and slowly. I allow myself to become increasingly conscious of God’s loving presence in this moment ... of his living Spirit within me.

I read Jesus’s intimate, prayerful words, addressed to his Holy Father. If I can, I read them aloud and let their mystery sink into my heart.

I notice if they find a welcoming home within me ... or if there is any resistance to them.

Do I thirst, like Jesus, for a sense of unity amongst all Christians?

In what ways could I acknowledge our differences, whilst celebrating what we have in common? I reflect ...

I read these profound words again. I listen to Jesus’s voice as he speaks to his Beloved Father... of his life in the Trinity... of his life in me ... of the Father’s love in me ...

Maybe I am able to sense the Christ’s presence within my body as I meditate on his words of relationship and love ... on his invitation to share in the mystical love of the Father.

I rest in Jesus’s prayer for all believers. When I am ready, I slowly end my prayer, perhaps saying ‘*Come Lord Jesus, Maranatha!*’