

Seventh Sunday of Easter

- We just celebrated Ascension Thursday – and Confirmation of 60
 - Newly confirmed, full of enthusiasm (Mississippi)
 - It was like that in early Church after Ascension
 - Full of enthusiasm, confident, LK says JOY
- It made me think of importance of the days from Resurrection to Ascension
 - They made a difference in Church
 - After Resurrection – fear, hiding, unsure of what to do
 - Then Jesus is in their midst – *still afraid*
 - **JC “Fear not, come and touch me” - Doubting Thomas**
 - But during these days – from Resurrection to Ascension
 - JC appears on road to Emmaus & ‘hearts burned within us’
 - JC appears on beach & asks Peter 3x ‘do you love me, feed my sheep’
 - JC breaths on them, ‘receive the HS, those sins you shall forgive ...’
 - JC teaches them that the Messiah had to be born, suffer, die, and rise
 - At Ascension JC departs & LK says ‘disciples return WITH JOY’
 - No more fear, no more doubt, no more uncertainty
 - ***All eyes are lifted up to heaven BUT***
 - ***All feet are planted here on earth- JUST LIKE US***

JN 17 – before Ascension

Jesus says “I pray not only for these disciples, but also for those who will believe in me through their word” JESUS PRAYS FOR US

Just like disciples – here at St. T – our eyes are lifted to heaven BUT

Our feet are planted here on earth

Practical necessities of life

In early Church practicalities necessitated Deacons to wait on tables

Stephen was a Deacon & waited on tables AND proclaimed the Good News

Filled with that HS – Stephen proclaims the Good News

Stephen is killed for telling the truth

- Reality of life is that the battle of Darkness v Light is real
- For Steven and for US

- We have an opportunity to be light in the midst of darkness
- We have an opportunity to bring the fruit of the Holy Spirit into the world:
LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,
GENTLENESS & SELF-CONTROL
- Listen to those gifts – in light of the chaos of the world THIS is power
Darkness is still at war with Light – but the Light of Christ is here to stay
We are keepers of the Light
It us up to us – with eyes lifted to heaven and feet planted on earth
Despite darkness (& we’ll encounter it)
 - Light casts out darkness, Jesus intercedes for us (JN17) Victory is won!
 - We are keepers of the light of Christ - let it shine