

## A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

In those days:

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven  
and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand  
of God.

And he said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens opened,  
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’

But they cried out with a loud voice  
and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

And the witnesses laid down their garments  
at the feet of a young man named Saul.

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out,  
‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’

And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice,  
‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’

And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

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

The LORD is king, let earth rejoice;

let the many islands be glad.

Justice and right are the foundation of his throne.

*The LORD is king, most high above all the earth.*

*or: Alleluia.*

The skies proclaim his justice;

all peoples see his glory.

All you angels, worship him.

*The LORD is king, most high above all the earth.*

For you indeed are the LORD,

most high above all the earth,

exalted far above all gods.

*The LORD is king, most high above all the earth.*

*let all the peoples praise you.*

## THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

I, John, heard a voice saying to me, 'Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.'

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.

I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'

And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'

And let the one who is thirsty come;

let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO JOHN CH 17 21-26

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and praying said, ‘Holy Father, I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

The Gospel of The Lord

## THE REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

I think the gift we give to future generations is the research we pay for now. The Cern tunnel smashes small atoms into each other small atoms costing Millions, but might be part of the great hope to produce fusion energy, like the energy of the sun, unlimited green energy for all people to be able to develop their lives.

The hope in the prayer of Jesus, allows us to hope that all might be drawn to the Kingdom of God. For God all things are possible, reconciling enemies and enabling us to see the good in them that might be hidden in this world.

This is the Christian message to bring hope to the world, a hope in what is unseen now. The third and fourth century Christians recognised that God became man so that Man could become like God, the summary of the joyful message that Jesus brought. Jesus tells us he will be with us, as he is through the Holy Spirit inviting us to the unity of the Trinity.

Believing this message enables us to find the way Jesus and living in anticipation of the fulness of the kingdom of God, if we know the way of Jesus, the truth and with the light of the Holy Spirit.

The great Austrian composer, Mahler, saw the beauty of the world as he discovered his Catholic faith, his third Symphony – agreed it s 90 minutes, seems to portray the bustling city of Vienna, the peace and beauty of the countryside and culminates in the joy and hope of the fulfilling knowledge of God's love.

Even in the midst of a chaotic and frequently unjust world we can bring the Christian hope to the world, reacting lovingly and unselfishly to the needs of others and keeping in our minds the love of God, always giving us opportunities, to lead full and sometimes newly discovered lives prompted by adversity and sustained by hope.