



17 May 2015

Solemnity of the Ascension

Year B

49TH WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

Tasked to Build God's Kingdom

Jesus' ascension marks the climax of his glorification, but it does not mean that he has severed his relationship with us. It only means that, while still remaining the great "protagonist" in the history of salvation, Jesus recedes for a time into the background to let the members of the Church play their role in the construction of God's Kingdom with a greater sense of responsibility.

All of us are involved in this great enterprise which is the core of God's plan for mankind. We do our share in it by contributing to the proclamation of the Gospel and by making the Kingdom present through a life of authentic Christian witness.

Today we also observe the 49th World Communications Sunday. Let us keep in our prayers all the Media practitioners and the recipients of their service.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus, our glorious Lord, who sits at the right hand of the Father. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All—**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the ascension into heaven of the Risen Christ, let us reflect on what prevents us from soaring high in our spiritual life.
(Pause)

P –You are exalted at the right

hand of the Father. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –You are the hope of all the living and the dead. Christ, have mercy!

All—**Christ, have mercy!**

P –You sent your apostles to preach the Good News to all nations. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—**Amen!**

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only

Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All—**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Acts 1:1-11*

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles begins where the Gospels of Mark and Luke end: the ascension of Jesus into heaven. He leaves his disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit and the mission to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

R – A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus,

who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 47*

R – *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord!*

R. M. Velez

* All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness. For the Lord, the Most High, the Awesome, is the great king over all the earth.

R.

* God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the Lord, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R.

* For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne.

R.

2nd Reading *Eph 1:17-23*

Here is a beautiful prayer of petition and a reflection on the exaltation of Christ above every principality and power.

R – A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation, resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the sur-

passing greatness of his power for us who believe.

This power working in us is the same as the great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. He put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Mt 28: 19-20*

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Mk 16:15-20*

The episode of Jesus' ascension into heaven brings to a close his visible presence among his disciples. At the same time, it ushers in the "Time of the Church" which is the direct continuation of the evangelizing and saving mission of Christ.

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Whoever does not believe will be condemned.

These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

The Gospel of the Lord!

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —The Ascension of our Lord reminds us of our final destiny.

It also reminds us of our duty to work in building God's Kingdom on earth through a life of unwavering Christian commitment. Aware of all our limitations and weaknesses, we pray:

All—Lord, graciously hear us!

C —That the Church and its leaders may faithfully accomplish their mission to lead the whole of mankind in a continuous moral and spiritual progress, let us pray! **R.**

C —That those who feel so attracted to earthly values as to forget the heavenly ones may find in our good example an invitation to raise the level of their aspirations, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all those who have reached the bottom of human perversion may heed the call of the ascending Christ to a sincere conversion and perseverance in good works, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all those involved in the world of social communication may practise their profession for the upliftment of all human beings, and for the promotion of peace and justice throughout the world, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all the media practitioners in our country may effectively contribute to the creation of a more united and more caring nation, let us pray! **R.**

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)
Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord Jesus, keep our hearts set on the "great hope" to which you calls us. May we do our best to promote on earth the Kingdom of justice, peace and love which you came to establish, and in which you live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the

praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honor the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Ascension I

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended today to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder.

Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P —This is the Lamb of God who ascended into heaven after offering his life to take away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

P —Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. *(Pause)*
You believe that Jesus has

taken his seat in majesty at the right hand of the Father. May you have the joy of experiencing that he is also with you till the end of time.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God look with love on you this day when his only Son ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you.

All—Amen!

P —May you be strengthened by God's grace in the fulfillment of your commitment to be heralds and witnesses of the Gospel.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in the peace of the glorified Christ.

All—Thanks be to God!

DOES YOUR FAMILY COMMUNICATE LOVE? 8 Tips from Pope Francis' Message for World Communications Sunday

(Part II)

*(Editor's Note: Here are 4 of the 8 tips based on Pope Francis' Message. See if you and your family are communicating well and what, if any, you need to improve on. This is taken from an article published in **Word & Life**, April-May 2015. For Part I, see the Euchalette last Sunday – 6th Sunday of Easter.)*

5. PRAY FOR OTHERS

Do we pray for our family members, relatives, friends, and loved ones? Do we ask God to bless them? Do we pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in need of God's help? According to Pope Francis, prayer is "the most basic form of communication." Our prayer should be "permeated with love, the love that God bestows upon us and which we then offer to others."

6. EMBRACE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

Do we accept and welcome everyone in our family – even those who are disabled, different, or difficult to love? Are we there for one another in successes as well as in trials? Do we laugh and cry with them? Give each other a hug. Reassure a family member with a pat in the back. Hold their hand when they are scared, sad, or going through a tough time . . .

7. FORGIVE

Do we say sorry when we have hurt someone? Do we forgive? Or do we bear grudges and let resentment grow in our hearts? The Holy Father explained, "A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness

or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively." Pope Francis said that "forgiveness is itself a process of communication" whenever we apologize and accept the other's apology. This way, our family becomes "a school of forgiveness."

8. REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Do we help our neighbors and friends in time of need? Do we console them? Do we acknowledge them? Do we tell them about God's love for them? Or share how God is working in our life? It is not enough that we communicate love within our family. We should reach out to others as Mary did when she visited her cousin Elizabeth. Pope Francis said that families must "communicate their message of life and communion, giving comfort and hope to more fragile families, and thus build up the Church herself, which is the family of families." He urged us not to be "closed in our little world" but to go out to others.

There are more tips from the Pope's Message that are not included in this short article. But this can be our starting point to help us and our families become models of communication that will bless and make the world a better place to live in.

Pope Francis wisely said, "A child who has learned in the family to listen to others, to speak respectfully and to express his or her view without negating that of others, will be a force for dialogue and reconciliation in society."

Be a force for dialogue and reconciliation. Communicate love, with love.



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