



8 May 2016

Solemnity of the Ascension

Year C

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY / MOTHER'S DAY

## ASCENSION, OUR HOPE AND OUR CHALLENGE

**T**oday, Ascension Sunday, we recall the glorification of Jesus Christ who, as a man, has been called to share in the glory of God. His ascension also reminds us that heaven is our destiny. That is what we have been created for. That is where we will find the perfect fulfillment of all our aspirations.

But before we reach such a glorious destination, we have to do our share in the fulfillment of God's plan for ourselves and the rest of humankind. Jesus wants that we become

more and more involved in the building of the Kingdom.

Today is also "Social Communications Sunday," a worldwide observance that emphasizes the importance of Mass Media in the work of evangelization, and the need to pray for all those involved in this profession. Let us include them in the intentions for which we offer this Eucharist.

In this Eucharist, let us also pray for all mothers as we celebrate Mother's Day today.



### 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 be with you all!  
**All** –And with your spirit!

#### Penitential Act

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

**All** –I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(strike your breast)* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.

Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the An-

gels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

**All** –Amen!

**P** –Lord, have mercy!  
**All** –Lord, have mercy!

**P** –Christ, have mercy!  
**All** –Christ, have mercy!

**P** –Lord, have mercy!  
**All** –Lord, have mercy!

#### 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*



God mounts his throne to shouts of joy;



a blare of trumpets for the Lord!

**\* 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*

*The truths of Christ's glorification and of the call of his followers to share in his glory were among the basic convictions of the early Christians. Here is how the apostle Paul professes this belief in prayer form.*

**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 surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his 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

**All**—Alleluia! Alleluia!

**“Go and teach all na-**

tions,” says the Lord. “I am with you always, until the end of the world.”  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Lk 24:46-53*

*The episode of Jesus’ ascension into heaven brings to a close his visible presence among his disciples and ushers in the period of universal evangelization to be conducted by the Church.*

**P** –The Lord be with you!  
**All**–And with your spirit!

**P** –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
**All**–Glory to you, O Lord!

**Jesus said to his disciples: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”**

**Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.**

**They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.**

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, (bow)\* 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 heaven as our final destiny and of the duty we have to work for the building of God’s Kingdom on earth through a life of unwavering Christian commitment. Aware of all our limitations and weaknesses, we pray:

**All**–Lord, you are our hope!

**C** –That the Church may faithfully accomplish her 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 to a sincere conversion and perseverance in good works, let us pray! **R.**

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

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

**C** –For all mothers celebrating Mother’s Day today: May they be refreshed and strengthened by the love of God and the care of their families. 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 our eternal Father 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!

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



#### 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.

**GLOSSARY:** • **Bethany:** A village at the foot of the eastern slope of Mount Olivet, about three kilometers from Jerusalem. Lazarus, Martha and Mary lived there. Jesus spent in Bethany the nights of his last week in Jerusalem, except the night between Thursday and Friday.

## 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* –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes 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)*

May almighty God bless you, for on this very day his Only Begotten Son pierced the heights of heaven and unlocked for you the way to ascend to where he is.

*All*–Amen!

*P* –May he grant that, as Christ after his Resurrection was seen plainly by his disciples, so when he comes as Judge he may show himself merciful to you for all eternity.

*All*–Amen!

*P* –And may you, who believe he is seated with the Father in his majesty, know with joy the fulfillment of his promise to stay with you until the end of time.

*All*–Amen!

*P* –And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

*All*–Amen!

*P* –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

*All*–Thanks be to God!



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**WORD & LIFE PUBLICATIONS**

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

*Postal Address:* P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

*Tel. Nos.* 894-5401; 894-5402; 892-2169 • *Telefax:* 894-5241 • *Website:* www.wordandlife.org

• *E-mail:* marketing@wordandlife.org, wordandlifepublications@gmail.com • *FB:* Word & Life Publications

• *Editorial Team:* Fr. S. Putzu, G. Ramos, R. Molomog, D. Daguio, V. David

• *Illustrations:* A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • *Circulation:* F. Edjan