



13 May 2018

Solemnity of the Ascension

Year B

52ND WORLD COMMUNICATION SUNDAY

MOTHER'S DAY

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 52nd World Communication Sunday. Let us keep in our prayers all the Media practitioners and the recipients of their service.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to show our love and gratitude to our mother, as we celebrate Mother's Day. We will do that not only by offering them flowers and hugs, but also by praying for them, especially in this Eucharistic celebration.



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 ascended into heaven and 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.

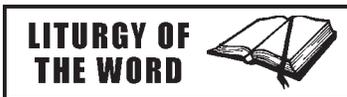
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are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



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

Musical notation for the Responsorial Psalm. It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Above the notes are the letters F, Bb, and F. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3, A3, G3. Above the notes are the letters G, Bb, C, and F. Below the second staff is the text "a blare of trumpets for the Lord!".

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*

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 surpassing 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

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-Constantinopolitan 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 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—Ascending Christ, hear us!

C –That the Church and her 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, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the media practitioners and all those involved in the world of social communication may practice their profession effectively 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 mothers throughout the world may have the strength and good health to fulfill their duties with loving dedication, 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!

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.

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!



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 Com-
munion Hymn is sung.)*

**Behold, I am with you al-
ways, even to the end of the age,
alleluia!**

Prayer after Communion

P –Almighty ever-living God,
who allow those on earth to cel-
ebrate 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!



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

P –Bow your heads and pray
for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
Jesus has taken his seat at
the right hand of the Father.
May you have the joy of ex-
periencing 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 ascend-
ed into heaven to prepare a
place for you.

All—Amen!

P –May you be strengthened by
God’s grace as you fulfill
your task 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 glori-
fied Christ.

All—Thanks be to God!

THE TASK OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND MAKING IT COME ALIVE IN OUR LIVES

The glorification of Christ at his
Ascension ushered in the time
of the Church – the time of the pro-
clamation of the Gospel addressed to
all peoples through the voice of men
who were themselves frail and sinful.
By human standards, their preaching
would have been doomed to fail from
the very start. And yet, after almost
two thousand years and millions of
setbacks, the preaching goes on, as
relevant and as challenging as ever.

The reason for this astonishing
phenomenon is the fact that Christ
has been keeping the promise he
made to his apostles: “***I am with
you always, until the end of the
world***” (Mt 28:20). Indeed, the Risen
Christ has been all along with his
people “working with them and con-
firming the word with accompanying
signs.” (See *end of today’s Gospel*.)

It is thanks to the unfailing pres-
ence of the Risen Christ that his
Word displays a freshness which
makes it contemporary with all gen-
erations, and possesses a richness
which makes it relevant to all cul-
tures and circumstances.

***The heart of the Word pro-
claimed by the Church is the
GOSPEL, the GOOD NEWS that
God has reconciled all human***

beings to Himself in Jesus Christ
(see Rom 5:10-11), and ***has exalted
Jesus above all creatures by seat-
ing him at His right hand*** (see Eph
1:20,22 and Mk 16:19).

***The “Good News” is also about
the saving effects on all men and
women of all times and places,
of Christ’s sacrificial death and
resurrection, for he has gone to
prepare “a place” for all, so that
where he is, his brothers and sis-
ters may also be.*** (See Jn 14:13.) In
this way, the wonder of Jesus’ res-
urrection and mankind’s redemption
is announced not as an event of a
distant past, but as a saving reality
rooted in history, affecting positively
all human beings.

***Such a blessing can be expe-
rienced personally by all through
a response of faith to the procla-
mation of the “Good News” and
by living its values. We are also
expected to proclaim it to others
through all the means of social
communication, and to witness
to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through a life characterized by
serenity, generosity, peace, purity
and all other qualities that make
the environment in which we live
a little heaven.***



**WORD & LIFE
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