

The Ascension of the Lord - Year A

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

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.”

***Men Helping Men Step Up and Become Better Spiritual Leaders
by Following Christ and the Teachings of His Church***



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47:2-3,6-7,8-9

R. 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 to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

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. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

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

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

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,

***Men Helping Men Step Up and Become Better Spiritual Leaders
by Following Christ and the Teachings of His Church***



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.
And 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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them,
“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

***Men Helping Men Step Up and Become Better Spiritual Leaders
by Following Christ and the Teachings of His Church***



Discussion for Readings - The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

In the readings, the disciples are called to move from simply following Jesus to becoming His witnesses in the world. Where in your life do you sense God may be inviting you to grow from comfort into greater purpose, intentionality, or involvement in your faith?

1. St. Paul prays that believers would grow in wisdom, understanding, and awareness of God's power working within them. What virtue or characteristic do you feel would strengthen your ability to serve, guide, or positively influence others more effectively right now—courage, discipline, perseverance, trust, or something else?
2. Psalm 47 says, "For the king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise." A key part of our Sunday Mass is praise and worship to God. How can you be a visible witness to your family and fellow parishioners that God is the king of the universe, and that all should praise and glorify Him?
3. Before ascending into Heaven, Jesus commissions His followers to go outward and live their faith actively. What is one intentional step you can take this week to live your faith more actively and become a stronger example for the people God has placed in your life?

Closing Reflection

The Ascension is not abandonment — it is promotion. Christ ascends to the right hand of the Father so that every baptized person can now carry His presence into the world through the Holy Spirit. By initiation, we are called and empowered to do what God does in the world: we are the hearts and hands of God who can bring His love and compassion into every aspect of life.

Leading your family, parish, community to Christ, then, is not a title. It is a response — to the command to go, the promise of presence, and the power of the Spirit.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, you ascended not to leave us, but to go before us. You did not wait for perfect disciples — you sent the doubting ones. We confess the places where we have been standing still, staring at the sky. Give us the Spirit's power to move, the humility to lead for others through example and action, and the courage to be accountable to one another. Send us. Form us. Keep us. Amen.

***Men Helping Men Step Up and Become Better Spiritual Leaders
by Following Christ and the Teachings of His Church***

