**“Resurrection to Ascension”**

All our readings tells us to keep our eyes on what is above and not on what is below. By the ascension of our Lord, we are called to focus more on things that would get us to where Jesus has gone ahead of us, rather than keep our focus on worldly things. The day of Jesus’ ascension was the day the Prototype glorified human nature was taken up to heaven by the Divinity of Christ. It is a reminder to us that one day, we too would have our glorified body united with our soul in heaven.

In our first reading, we found out that St. Luke was writing to a certain either powerful or rich man called Theophilus. This man was eager to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Luke explained to him that the magnificent story of our salvation did not end with his first account of the Gospel. He then, gave a synopsis of what he wrote about what Jesus did and taught in His ministry until His paschal mystery and ascension. That Jesus continued to teach and instructed His disciples for forty days after His resurrection before His ascension.

Jesus’ instruction was about the gift of heavenly teaching of the kingdom of God. He desired that His audience would let His instruction soak in like the rain falling on a dry land. But his disciples had a hard time understanding what He was telling them about the most important thing to hold on to. Instead of paying attention, they had their own agenda about earthly stuff. They were asking Jesus about when He would restore the kingdom of Israel!

Jesus ignored there question by telling them that it is not their business to know when the kingdom of Israel would be restored that that is the business of His Father. He told them they should be concerned about heavenly stuff that lasts, and not earthly stuff that do not last! He said their focus should be on the reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit, they would be baptized with. He told them His Father has promised they would receive this gift through Him. After, He commanded them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth not leaving any stone on turned.

While His disciples were looking in awe as their Master was lifted up in the clouds, two men dressed in white appeared to them telling them to go to work about what they had been commissioned to do. The commission was to go and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of truth who would remind them and enlighten them of everything Jesus had taught them.

This Holy Spirit is Who we receive during our confirmation, when through the bishops who are the successors of the Apostles or those whom they designate lays their hands on us. Therefore, we too by our baptism and confirmation, have been called to go out to the ends of the earth to bring the Good News to all people either through our words or actions.

We must not be afraid or reluctant to talk about our faith. We must be ready as St. Peter told us in our second reading last week to always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks us for the reason for our hope. Our hope is in Christ and His message of salvation. We must realize that in discussing our faith with others, the Holy Spirit would work in us and we would grow in the understanding of our faith.

In our second reading today, St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, prayed for all Christians that we may have wisdom and revelation of things that are above. Things that would give us the knowledge of God. And that may our inner eyes be opened through the glory of God to know why we have hope because He has called us to His inheritance with our holy ancestors who are above in heaven.

We will attain this glory through our resurrection to life similarly to how Christ was raised from the dead to life. Christ was raised from the dead to assume His place He had before the beginning of time. He is now seated at the right hand of His Father to rule over every creation. He is the head of the Church which is His body.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus commanded His disciples to go to a mountain which is a symbol of living the world behind and focusing on things that are above. He was telling them to fix their eyes on heaven and see Him with the inner eye of their heart. However, the disciples could not completely leave the world behind. Though they worshiped Him, their earthly knowledge of Him did not let them see Him as fully Divine, so they doubted.

Jesus over looked their fickleness. He reminded them that He is the true Vine who has all the power in heaven and on earth. By telling them to go and baptize everyone on the face of the earth, He lets them know that they are the branches that needs to cling to Him so they could produce more branches for the kingdom of God by teaching everyone to observe all He had commanded them.

Jesus is telling us that by having all the power in heaven and on earth, He is the way the truth and the life. He has the only ticket that would get us to heaven our true home. Jesus has gone home to prepare a place for each and every one of us. From a message that I received a couple of day’s age, it says, Jesus has gone to work from home. Like the good thief, I would say, Jesus remember us when you come into your kingdom.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Him for His grace to be not afraid to spread His Gospel to the ends of the earth.