**“Through Christ’s Bodily Ascension, our glorified bodies will be in heaven”**

The mission of Jesus for us on earth for our salvation was completed on the cross when He said **“It is finished.”** However, His mission for us still continues in heaven after His ascension. In heaven, He becomes our intercessor because it is only through Him we can get to His Father, our Father by adoption.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we heard from Luke that Jesus gave instruction through the Holy Spirit to His apostles for 40 days. During this period between His resurrection and ascension, Jesus instill into the minds and hearts of His disciples the truth that though He suffered the undignified death on the cross, and truly died a death similar to the death of a common thief, He has truly risen from the dead and has been glorified with the glory He had before the beginning of time.

It was during this period as we are told in Scripture that Jesus breathed on all His apostles and told them to receive the Holy Spirit. It was then that Jesus gave the leadership of His flock to Peter. It was during the period that He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised baptism by the Holy Spirit. Yes, twice they received the Holy Spirit because each gift of the Holy Spirit was for a special purpose. The apostles were scared of the crucifixion to the point they were no longer sure there would be a resurrection. They could not believe that their beloved Messiah would be treated like a common criminal.

As we are told in Scripture, even after Jesus appeared to them, they were not sure of what to do; probably because in a little while they would see Him and in a little while they would not see Him. He kept disappearing. They could not see Him all the time to lead them physically as they were used to in the past. Even though they knew it was Him, most of the time, they could not talk to Him as in the past. We are told, they went fishing at a certain point.

The work of our redemption was brought to fulfillment by Christ especially through the paschal mysteries of His passion, resurrection and ascension. By His resurrection, we are given the hope of our own resurrection to life. By His ascension, we know we too will be in heaven in our glorified bodies if we follow His commandments. His commandments which are for our profit so we can share in His holiness.

To share in His holiness we must not only cultivate the virtues of gentleness, meekness, and patience we must also imitate Him in His death. We who have been baptized into Christ, as He said in our gospel reading, we must repent of our sins so we can receive forgiveness. It is then we can be true witnesses of His passion, resurrection, and ascension.

Jesus has given us all we need to be holy. So we should rejoice just as His apostles rejoiced when He ascended into heaven. They were joyful because all they could think of were heavenly things. They consider all earthly things as rubbish. We too should imitate the disciples by surrendering our hearts to Him and forsaking all earthly stuff that are keeping us from fully loving Him. Jesus desire for us is to follow Him to His Father’s house.

As we come to receive Him in the Eucharist, let us completely surrender our hearts to Him.