

The Ascension of the Lord A



Entrance Antiphon: 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.

We celebrate the feast of the Ascension today. Just as the risen Lord commissioned his disciples, so he commissions us: to make the Good News known to all. Christ does not abandon us in that task. He gives us the Holy Spirit to fulfill his will.

The Lord Jesus ascended to the heavens where he is seated at God's right hand. Let us seek his mercy.

Jesus, mediator between God and man. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Lord of all. Christ have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Jesus, you are the beginning and head of the Church. Lord, have mercy..**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

Let us pray:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. "It is", he had said, "what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit". Now having met together, they asked him, "Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied: "It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth". As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said: "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46

**Response: God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

Response

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **Response**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **Response**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians. Ephesians 1:17-23
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you. Matthew 28:16-20
And with your spirit.
Glory to you, Lord.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour 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. **Amen.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

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.

The mystery of faith. **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon: **Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia. Mt 8:20**

REFLECTION

Returning to God

We are born in exile and die there too.

As soon as we set sail on the great voyage of life, we begin our return.

We spend our lives dreaming of a homeland we have never seen.

Like homing birds that are released in a strange country,
and know no rest until they return home ...

So it is with us.

When we die, we do not so much go to God as return to him.

You have made us for yourself, O Lord,

and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you.

Prayer after Communion:

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.

Amen.

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you:

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Mass is ended: Go in peace. Alleluia.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God Alleluia.

How do you plan to enter into the being and action of the incarnation in specific ways this week? What signs of God have you seen in creation? How have these signs spoken to you? In what ways have you carried out everything God has commanded you to do?

Lord teach me to pray and trust more fully in you. Give me assurance that you are with me always, and teach me to be content with the plan you have for me and all your creatures.