

The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

United in Spirit and with great joy as we continue our celebration of Jesus' Glorious Resurrection, we at Jesus the Divine Word Church encourage our parishioners to join one another in prayer from our homes, reading and reflecting on the Word of God for this feast of the Ascension of the Lord and through the live streaming of our Mass at 10 AM (replayed at 12 Noon).

Living the Word

Theme: *Witness to Jesus*

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . .
. . . teaching them all that I have commanded you.”

Opening Prayer

You have glorified your Christ, O God,
exalting to your right hand the Son
who emptied himself for us in obedience
unto death on the cross,
and thus have exalted all of us
who have been baptized into
Christ's death and resurrection.

Strengthen us in the power of the Spirit
to go and make disciples of all nations,
to obey everything that Jesus has commanded us,
and to know that he is with us always
until the end of the age,
interceding before you on our behalf,
living and reigning with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.

(Adapted from Prayer for Sundays and Seasons, Year A Ascension of the Lord)

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.”

Reflection

The solemnity of the Ascension can be understood as the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus and the beginning of the community of believers that we know as the Church.

The description of Jesus’ return to the Father, in the first reading from Acts and in the Gospel, is set in the company of the disciples. Jesus’ instruction to the disciples today is to continue his work and his teachings to all the nations.

This divine mission continues to this day. We too are the messengers of that mandate. This may seem a daunting task for us, but Jesus puts his faith in us. We are not alone in this work. Jesus assures us that he is with us always, “until the end of the age.” This should give us great courage for what we need to do.

(Daily Prayer 2020, Liturgical Training Publications, Thursday, May 21 and Sunday, May 24, 2020)

Challenge: Commit to evangelizing about Jesus in word and example to each person you encounter.

Let Us Pray

For the Church: May we faithfully give witness to the Gospel, bringing Christ’s message of hope and healing to the world... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For those living in poverty: May we work to end their suffering and bring healing to all of God’s creation ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are struggling financially, particularly single parents: May God give them hope, guide them to the resources that they need, and help them find safe employment. ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For our common home: May we use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage done to God’s creation and to sustain God’s gift of nature ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the end to the coronavirus: May God inspire and give insight to all who are caring for the sick, developing treatments, researching vaccines and those providing assistance to the most vulnerable... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick: May God’s healing spirit ease their pain and restore them to wholeness; we pray for Art Campbell, Roy Kaiser, Jimmie Gorski, David Kemeza, Daniel Reuwer, Betty Russell, Julia Small, Dave Thacker, for those with depression, mental illness, addiction and those suffering from COVID-19 ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For Tara Murphy: May God bless her heart, grant her every good gift, and fill her life with his presence... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For those taken from our sight by death, in particular for Nathan Cortes-Peck, and all who have served and laid down their lives for the cause of freedom: May God welcome them into the company of the saints forever ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

Closing Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and
you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has instructed the hearts of your faithful by
the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may have right judgment in all things
and evermore rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.