

Feast of the Ascension May13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## INTRODUCTION

It has been a while since I was at the live or movie theatre but it is something I love to do. I love losing myself in a good play or movie and being drawn into the action as it unfolds and see some aspect of the drama of life from another person's perspective. I like the sense of feeling that as a member of the audience I get caught up in their reactions to events and situations . I love the sense of time standing still and being amazed at the end, two hours have passed by and I did not even notice it. You know you have been to a good play or movie when you realize it is about to end and you do not want it to end.

You want to hold on to the moment for just a while longer and you cannot. You have to get up and move on.

I guess that is how the disciples felt when they saw Jesus been taken from them up to Heaven this Ascension Day. The drama seems to be coming to an end and they do not want it to. They want things to stay as they are now,--but they know that is not how things work. The whole point of the Gospel story is that the end of one reality and the beginning of another, coincide in the same moment of tension. Just like in a good play or movie. Today we are witnesses to the moment when Jesus ascends to the Father to take his place at God's right hand in Heaven. Everything in the Gospel so far has been leading to this moment and, though Jesus has been preparing his Disciples for this time of parting they still were not ready for it. They wanted to hold on.

Our lives are filled with moments like this. We know from experience that saying goodbye to someone or to a particular stage of our life is not easy. We too want to hold on, but we cannot. We have to let go. We have to get up and move on. This is where the

beauty of the mystery of our faith comes in. The Ascension teaches us a very important truth. The Disciples watch as Jesus is taken up into Heaven , and yet they are not left as orphans. St Mark tells us that that going out they “ preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it “. He was gone from their physical sight but not from their presence. He continued to work with them and through them to finish the work He had begun during His life on earth. AMEN.