



The Ascension of the Lord

He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.— *Acts 1:9*

May 24, 2020

“PUSHED” OUT ON MISSION

There is a delightful character in the original *Dr. Dolittle Tales* called the “Pushmi-Pullyu.” It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the “push me” and the other is the “pull you.” Today’s feast is a bit like that in the life of the church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or “pushes” the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew’s Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, “I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that “pulls” us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.

— TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There was a curious custom years ago that perhaps developed in an age when Easter was seen less as a baptismal season than as a kind of tour through the deeds of the Risen Christ. The paschal candle, sign of Christ’s presence, was removed from public view on Ascension Thursday, banished to the baptistery.

Ascension day does speak of the hidden aspects of Christ’s life among us, but it does not have much to do with God’s absence. Christ has not shed his human life like an inconvenient shell, but rather has taken humanity into heaven. The theologian Karl Rahner said that it is a festival of “the nearness of God.” In vanishing from our sight, Christ has become utterly available to all at every time and every place, and is “closer to us than he ever was.”

Today is the feast of believing that beyond our final breath is a presence that waits for us, a banquet prepared, a tender homecoming embrace. Rahner said that today is a festival of the future of the world, a day for anticipating the world’s true destiny, and therefore hardly a day to be going around hiding candles!

Remember In Prayer

Michaëlle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello , Emani Milligan, Leonard Humble , Louis Humble Sr. , Joy Williams, Martha Jo Neuenschwander , Mary Taylor

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

Psalm — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

Second Reading — May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17-23).

Gospel — Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab;
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7;
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b
or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24,

HEAVEN

The world is only peopled to people heaven.

**The office will be closed
Monday May 25th to observe
Memorial day**

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day

Monday : St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII;

St. Mary Magdalene de’ Pazzi; Memorial Day

Tuesday : St. Philip Neri

Wednesday: St. Augustine of Canterbury;
Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sunset

Thursday: Julian Calendar Ascension

Friday: St. Paul VI



Olivia and Mattie Kay are receiving the Sacraments of Baptism and First Communion on Sunday May 31st .

May 31st
Lector Mary

Offertory 5/17/2020
BUDGET \$1351.00
ACTUAL \$2495.00
B&M
\$440.00