



The Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASCENSION

The theological unity, or perhaps even the temporal experience of the early community, made it seem that Jesus’ resurrection and his ascension were inseparable aspects of a single mystery. Only in the later writings of Luke and John has further theological reflection helped the Christian community to distinguish different dimensions of the mystery. Liturgical tradition has followed the forty-day chronology formulated by Luke. We would miss the point, however, if we were to demand a precise historical chronology of events such as the Resurrection-Ascension that are primarily spiritual in nature and that clearly surpass the bounds of time and space as we know them.

What is important for us to grasp is the significance of the Ascension. For Luke, it is the decisive turning point that marks the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry and the beginning of the disciples’ Spirit-led ministry and thus the ministry of the whole church down to our own day.

FEAST OF FAITH

The General Intercessions

The general intercessions were restored to the liturgy in the reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council. In these prayers—also known as the “universal prayer” or “prayer of the faithful”—the assembly prays for the Church, the world, and the local community. As the name “prayer of the faithful” reminds us, these intercessions are a privilege of the baptized, which is why any catechumens are dismissed before the Creed and the intercessions. In baptism, we become members of a royal priesthood, and what do priests do? They intercede; they pray. In standing to pray to God as a community, we are living out our royal priesthood.

The intercessions at Mass usually follow a clear pattern, moving from general to specific needs. We pray for the whole Church. We pray for the world and for our nation. We pray for our local community, for those who have died and for all the sick and afflicted. In our united prayer, we reach beyond ourselves and our own needs and grow in awareness of and compassion for the needs of others.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — This Jesus will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven (Acts 1:1-11).

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

Second Reading — God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens (Ephesians 1:17-23) *or Ephesians 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]*.

Gospel — The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God (Mark 16:15-20).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord;
World Communications Day;
Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sundown

Tuesday: St. John I

Thursday: St. Bernardine of Siena;

Julian Calendar Ascension

Friday: St. Christopher Magellanes and Companions

Saturday: St. Rita of Cascia; Vigil of Pentecost



THE LOAN

We didn’t inherit the earth from our parents.
We’re borrowing it from our children

—Chief Seattle

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, 35, 27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25;

THE SHIP OF THE CHURCH

The Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life’s different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course.

May 23rd

Lector Jeff

May 9th

BUDGET \$1351.00

\$1359.00

B&M

\$450.00

St. Regina’s Church Staff

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