

Sunday, May 21, 2023
The Ascension of The Lord

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20

FOCUS: We are assured of the power of God in our lives – the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

Jesus did not leave us orphans after his ascension into heaven. He is with us always, leading and guiding us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks to us directly in and through sacred Scripture, and works to strengthen and nourish us through the graces of the sacraments so we may grow in holiness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Jesus' final instructions to the Apostles before ascending into heaven. The second reading reminds us of the importance of praying – that we might grow in wisdom and understanding. In the Gospel, the risen Jesus commands the Apostles to go forth and make disciples of all peoples. Then he ascends into heaven to the right hand of the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that Jesus is with us always by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us offer our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we have the courage and grace to spread the joy and hope of the Resurrection throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government leaders, may their hearts be driven by fairness, and by compassion for the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed, may they be blessed with the support and resources they need to find work that provides for their needs and the needs of their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our parish, may we give generously of our time, treasure and talent to further the work and mission of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased relatives and friends, and all the faithful departed, may they experience eternal peace and joy in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we ask that you attend to the needs of your faithful, and hear the prayers we offer today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.