

*st mary's catholic church
greenville, south carolina*



*the ascension of the lord
17 may 2026*

Entrance Antiphon

Acts of the Apostles 1.11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Entrance Hymn

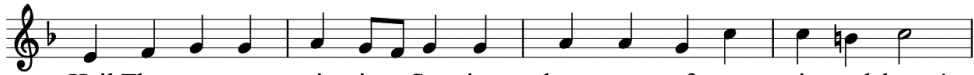
Hail, Thou Once Despisèd Jesus



1. Hail, thou once de - spis - èd Je - sus! Hail, Thou Ga - li - le - an king!
 2. Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on Thee were laid;
 3. Je - sus, hail, en - throned in glo - ry, there for - ev - er to a - bide!
 4. Wor - ship, hon - or, pow'r, and bless - ing Thou are wor - thy to re - ceive;



Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; Thou didst free sal - va - tion bring.
 by al - might - y Love a - noint - ed, Thou hast full a - tone - ment made:
 All the heav'n - ly host a - dore Thee, seat - ed at Thy Fa - ther's side.
 high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing, meet it is for us to give.



Hail, Thou a - go - niz - ing Sav - ior, bear - er of our sin and shame!
 all Thy peo - ple are for - giv - en through the vir - tue of Thy blood;
 There for sin - ners Thou art plead - ing; there Thou dost our place pre - pare;
 Help, ye bright an - gel - ic spir - its, bring your sweet - est, nob - lest lays;



By Thy mer - it we find fa - vor; life is gi - ven through Thy name.
 o - pened is the gate of hea - ven; peace is made 'twixt man and God.
 ev - er for us in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
 help to sing our Sav - ior's mer - its; help to chant Im - man - uel's praise!



Penitential Act

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

Kyrie

Musical score for Kyrie, consisting of four staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ky-ri - e, * e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e, * ** e - le - i - son.

Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Gloria

Gló-ri - a in ex-cél-sis De - o. Et in ter-ra pax ho-mí-ni-bus
bo - nae vo - lun - tá - tis. Lau-dá - mus te.
Be-ne-dí-ci-mus te. A-do-rá - mus te.
Gló-ri - fi - cá-mus te. Grá-ti - as á - gi - mus ti - bi
pro-pter ma-gnam gló-ri - am tu - am. Dó-mi-ne De-us, Rex cae-
lé - stis, De-us, Pa-ter om - ní - po - tens.
Dó-mi-ne Fi - li u - ni - gé - ni - te, Je - su Chri - ste.
Dó-mi-ne De-us, A-gnus De - i, Fí-li-us Pa - tris.
Qui tol - lis pec-cá-ta mun - di, mi-se-ré - re no-bis.
Qui tol - lis pec-cá - ta mun - di, sú-sci-pé de-pre-ca - ti - ó -
nem no - stram. Qui se - des ad déx-te-ram Pa-tris,
mi-se-ré-re no - bis. Quó - ni - am tu so - lus San - ctus.
Tu so - lus Dó - mi - nus. Tu so - lus Al - tís - si-mus,
Je - su Chri - ste. Cum San - cto Spí - ri - tu,
in gló-ri - a De - i Pa - tris. A - men.

Collect

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

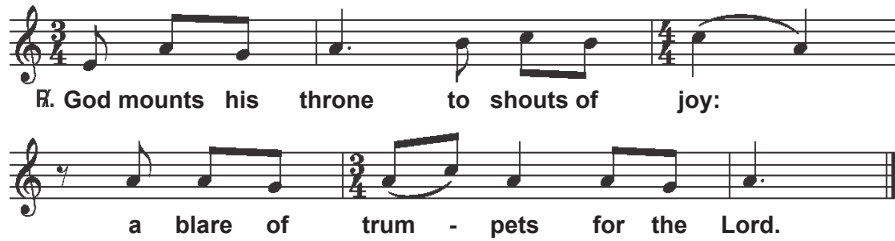
Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47.2-3, 6-7, 8-9

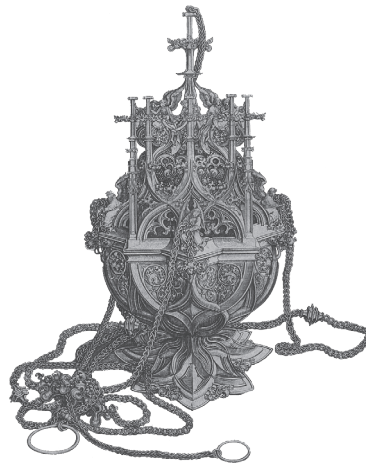


♩. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trum - pets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne.



Second Reading

Ephesians 1.17-23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might: which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation



Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, until the end of the world. *Response.*

Gospel

Matthew 28.16-20

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

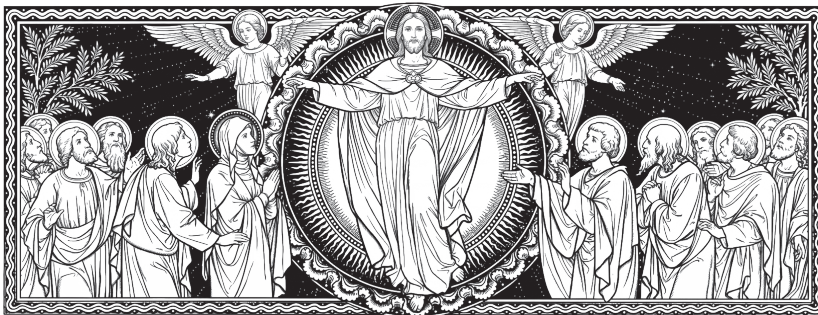
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily



Profession of Faith *(spoken slowly and reverently)*

The Apostles' Creed is the baptismal profession of faith of the Holy Roman Church, which is used in the administration of Baptism and at the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. For this reason, we use this text throughout Lent and Eastertide to profess our faith.

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Bow profoundly during these two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Bidding Prayers

The Collection

The offering is for the support of the parish and Catholic Charities. You may donate online using the link below:

[Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church](#)

Offertory Antiphon

Psalm 47.6

God has ascended with shouts of joy, and the Lord with the sound of a trumpet, alleluia.

Offertory Hymn

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

LLANFAIR 77, 77
Robert Williams, 1781-1821
Harm. by John Roberts, 1822-1877



1. Hail the day that sees him rise Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. There for him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. High - est heaven its Lord re - ceives, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. See, he lifts his hands a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
 5. Still for us he in - ter - ceds, Al - le - lu - ia!
 6. There we shall with thee re - main, Al - le - lu - ia!



to his throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates; Al - le - lu - ia!
 yet he loves the earth he leaves: Al - le - lu - ia!
 See, he shows the prints of love. Al - le - lu - ia!
 his pre - vail - ing death he pleads, Al - le - lu - ia!
 part - ners of thy end - less reign, Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he has con - quered death and sin; Al - le - lu - ia!
 though re - turn - ing to his throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark, his gra - cious lips be - stow Al - le - lu - ia!
 near him - self pre - pares our place, Al - le - lu - ia!
 there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!



re - as - cends his na - tive heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!
 take the King of glo - ry in. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still he calls man - kind his own. Al - le - lu - ia!
 bless - ings on his church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
 he the first fruits of our race. Al - le - lu - ia!
 find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

Offertory Anthem

The Lord Ascendeth Up on High

Michael Praetorius

The Lord ascendeth up on high, the Lord hath triumphed gloriously, in power and might excelling; the grave and hell are captive led. Lo! he returns, our glorious Head, to his eternal dwelling.

The heavens with joy receive their Lord, by saints, by angel hosts adored; O day of exultation! O earth, adore thy glorious King! His rising, his ascension sing with grateful adoration!

Our great High Priest hath gone before, upon his Church his grace to pour; and still his love he giveth. O may our hearts to him ascend; may all within us upward tend to him who ever liveth.



Priest Pray, brethren,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the Almighty Father.

***People* May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer Over the Offerings


 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
 

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you. *Assembly:* And with your Spir - it.
Priest: Lift up your hearts. *Assembly:* We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Assembly:* It is right and just.

Sanctus

San - ctus, * San - ctus, San -
 ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá -
 ba - oth. Ple - ni sunt cae - li et
 ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán -
 na in ex - céel - sis Be - ne - dí - ctus qui
 ve - nit in nó - mi - ne Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán -
 na in ex - céel - sis.

Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

 COMMUNION RITE 

Priest At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

***People* Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

***People* For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Priest Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***People* And with your spirit.**

Agnus Dei

A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec cá -
ta mun - di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.
A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun -
di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.
A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec - cá -
ta mun - di, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

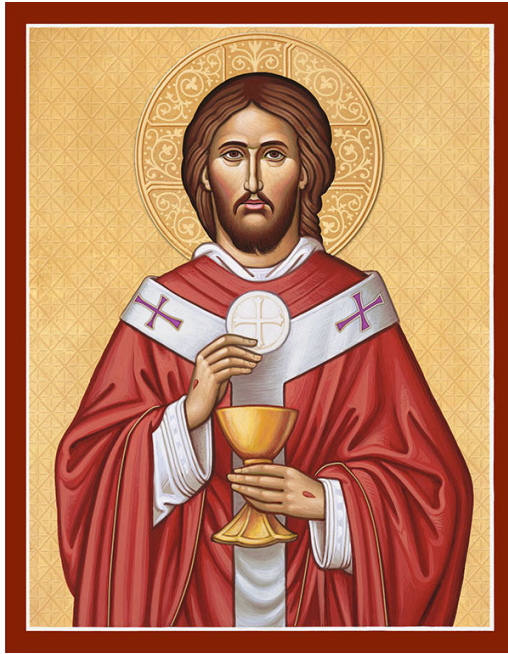
Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Priest Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

LORD JESUS, I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS.
HOW I LONG TO RECEIVE YOU WITH MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS AT THE TABLE YOU HAVE PREPARED.
BUT SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU IN
THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF YOUR BODY AND BLOOD,
I ASK YOU TO FEED ME WITH THE MANNA OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT
AND NOURISH ME WITH YOUR HOLY PRESENCE.

I UNITE MYSELF COMPLETELY TO YOU;
NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR LOVE.

AMEN.

Communion Motets

Ascendit Deus in jubilatione

William Byrd

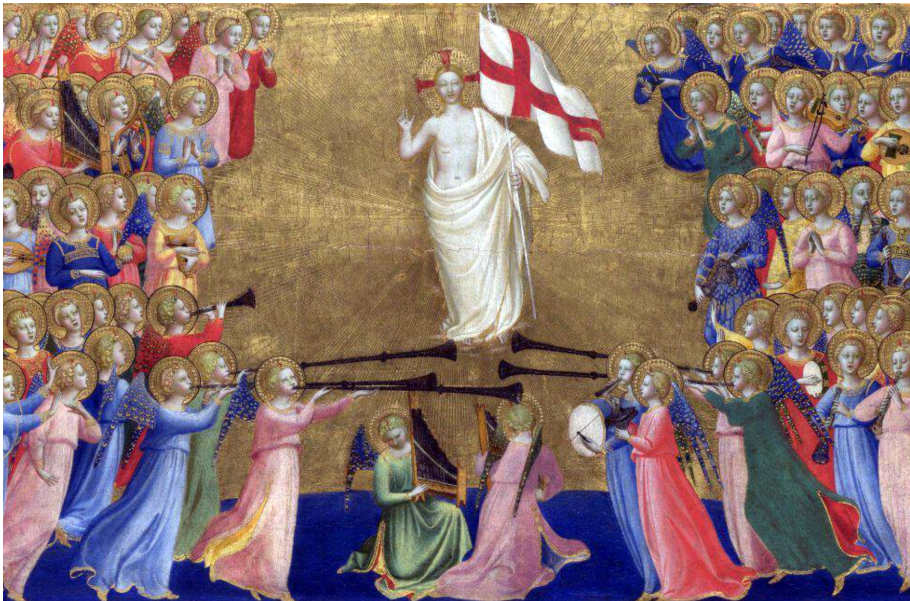
Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubae, alleluia. Alleluia.

God has ascended in jubilation, and our Lord in the voice of the trumpet. Alleluia.

Since Our Great High Priest

ALL SAINTS

Since our great high priest, Christ Jesus, bears the name above all names, reigning Son of God, surpassing other titles, powers, and claims - since to heaven our Lord has passed, let us hold our witness fast! Since we have a priest who suffered, knowing weakness, tears, and pain, who, like us, was tried and tempted, unlike us, without a stain - since he shared our lowly place, let us boldly seek his grace! Sacrifice and suffering over, now he sits at God's right hand crowned with praise, no more an outcast, his pre-eminence long-planned; such a great high priest we have, strong to help, supreme to save! Love's example, hope's attraction, faith's beginning and its end, pioneer of our salvation, mighty advocate and friend, Jesus, high in glory raised, our ascended Lord be praised!



Communion Hymn

Rejoice, Angelic Choirs



1. Re - joice, an - gel - ic choirs, re - joice! Re - joice now, all
 2. O earth, ex - ult - in ra - diance bright, il - lu - mined by
 3. Let all who gath - er round this flame, the sign of Christ's



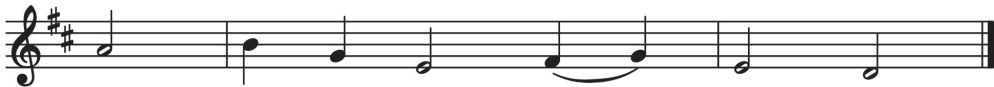
cre - a - tion! Let trum - pets loud - ly raise their voice to
 Christ's splen - dor! Your dark - ness now is put to flight; to
 a - ris - ing, the death - less light of Christ ac - claim, his



hail the Lord's sal - va - tion; let all Christ's ho - ly
 him due prais - es ren - der! Be glad, O Church! Sing
 sav - ing mer - cy priz - ing; that all may live by



peo - ple, sing the tri - umph of their might - y king
 out your songs! Your tem - ples fill with shout - ing throngs
 faith in him who con - quered death, de - spair and sin



in fes - tal cel - e - bra - tion!
 to hail the glo - rious vic - tor!
 to make us his for - ev - er.

Text: *Exultet jam angelica*; Latin, 4th C.; Tr. by Joel W. Lundeen, b.1918, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART



✻ CONCLUDING RITES ✻

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

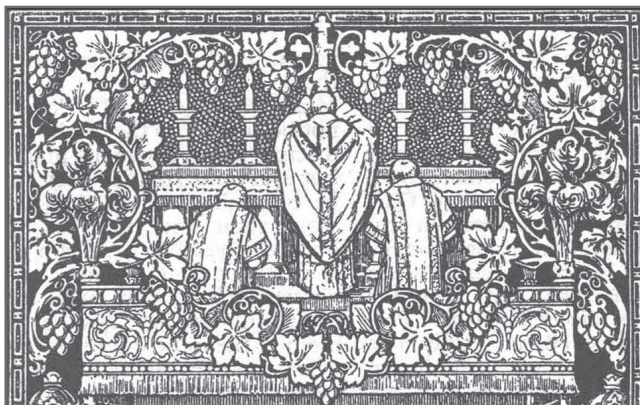
Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgyt.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.



Page one: Lorenzo Monaco. Antiphonary Codex Cor. 3, folio 59. (c. 1410).

Page eleven: Fra Angelico. *The Last Judgment* (detail). (c. 1435).

Page sixteen: Fra Angelico. *Christ Glorified in the Court of Heaven*. (c. 1420).

from the office of readings for the ascension of the lord

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: *If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.* For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?* and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me food.*

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: *No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.*

These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are the sons of God. So the Apostle says: *Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ.* He too has many members, but one body.

Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.

- From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop (b. 354; d. 430 AD)



from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Holy Scripture tells us that the Lord Jesus returned to the glory of his Father forty days after his Resurrection, and for that reason, the Church traditionally celebrates the Ascension on the Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter — forty days after Easter Sunday. In recent years, however, the liturgical commemoration of the Ascension has been transferred in many places from the proper Thursday to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, and that is why we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ today.

This mystery of faith does not mean that the Lord was merely taken from our sight to continue in space and time as we know them while simply being in another place; rather, Christ the Lord in his Ascension transcended the created universe altogether, including the created realities of time and space. But in transcending the created universe, the Lord Jesus did not abandon his Church or leave us comfortless.

Even as Christ gave us the Great Commission to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth and celebrate the sacraments for the salvation of souls, he also promised to send the Holy Spirit of truth to be our teacher, guide, and consoler, and the coming of the Spirit was accomplished and manifested fifty days after Christ's Resurrection, a mystery which we will celebrate next week on the great Solemnity of Pentecost. Christ's Ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are the very conditions for the possibility of this time of the Church in which we are called to share in the sublime work of bringing the whole human race to know, love and serve the living God, and the Savior remains with us in Word and Sacrament to sustain us in that mission.

In describing the final moments of the Lord Jesus with the Apostles, Saint Matthew candidly admits that even forty days after the Resurrection, confusion remains: "And when they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted." These doubts, however, were resolved by the solemn revelation of the divine nature and glory of the Son of Man: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." And twenty centuries later we are still laboring to fulfill the Great Commission, which begins with comprehending the majesty of this sacred mystery of faith. In the Roman Missal, the first Preface of the Ascension speaks to us of the sacred mystery of Christ's Ascension in these words:

"It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder. Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state, but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before."

Father Newman