

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD – MAY 21, 2020
PNCC WORSHIP FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND HOLY MASS DUE TO COVID 19

HYMN – AS OUR SAVIOR ENTERS HEAVEN

Christ the Lord ascends to heaven, Let the faithful now be joyous.
Happily, we sing to our God, Deserved glory we give Him; Alleluia, Alleluia.

He prepared a place in heaven, He wants all to be there with Him.
Hence, let us joyfully sing now, Glory to God let us give now. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jesus Christ now elevated, Accept, Lord, from us these praises.
May Your reign mighty and powerful Persist, O Lord, through all the ages. Alleluia, Alleluia.

In the name of the ✠ Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for bringing me safely to the beginning of a new day. Keep me safe throughout the day from temptation, sin and evil. O Lord, by Your help and guidance may my thoughts, words and all that I do be in accordance with Your holy will. Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O God, from the depth of my heart I am sorry for sinning against You. Through my sins I have turned away from You, displeased You and offended You. I promise to confess my sins, to do penance and with Your grace to amend my life by following You closely and keeping Your commandments.

ENTRANCE HYMN

V. As He parted from them and was taken up to heaven. Alleluia.

R. They did Him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God. Alleluia.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of ✠ God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You went to the Father to prepare a place for us.

Grant that we may both live in union with You here on earth, and hereafter enjoy the fullness of Your presence.

For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 47

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 to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Alleluia.

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.
God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Alleluia.

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne.
God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Alleluia.

SECOND READING: Ephesian 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

ALLELUIA VERSE: Matthew 28:19a, 20b

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: - Matthew 28:16-20

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. *Praise be to You Lord Jesus Christ.*

REFLECTION – *Adapted from The Word Among Us*

On the feast of the Ascension, we are called to rejoice both in Jesus’ victory over sin and death and in the glorious life that he has secured for us. We pray that we would experience the new life that is ours in Christ.

Three aspects of that new life stand out in the Second Mass Reading for the feast: “May you know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18-19).

As Christians, our hope is secure because it rests in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Because Jesus has overcome sin forever, we can live in freedom and peace, no matter what situations we may face. Even in the face of this Covid-19 pandemic. We have been reconciled to God. We are no longer strangers. Every day, we can live in confidence, knowing that our God is with us to strengthen and comfort us.

Our hope is also founded in the inheritance Jesus won for us—none other than being with our Father forever, knowing him intimately, in all his splendor and beauty. In his ascension, Jesus has opened the door for us. Though we are sinners, we have been forgiven and redeemed. We are now fully loved and accepted as God’s children, and we will live with him forever.

As we live every day in the hope of our eternal inheritance, however, we can begin to taste these blessings here and now. This is part of the “immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe.” Before he returned to his Father, Jesus promised his disciples that anyone who believed in him would be able to cast out demons, heal the sick, and perform signs and wonders in his name (Mark 16:17-18). How? By the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is in our hearts, inviting us to yield to him and empowering us to live in the victory of the resurrection. No challenge is too great for a child of God!

Points for Meditation:

- As the disciples watched Jesus being lifted up to heaven, do you think that they would have been tempted to feel abandoned and panicked about their risen Lord leaving the earth? Think of a time in your life when you felt as if Jesus had abandoned you. How can Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5,8) bring you comfort at such a time?
- Exercise your hope today by calling to mind Jesus’ death and resurrection and the salvation he won for you on the cross. How can you more fully place your hope and confidence in these truths – especially during these challenging days?
- Have you “tasted” the blessings here and now of your eternal inheritance? Ask God for a powerful outpouring of his Spirit so that he can manifest his power in your life.

(A few moments for silent reflection)

NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary,
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, before You ascended into heaven, You promised to return and take us to be with You forever. May the gifts we offer to Your Heavenly Father be acceptable to Him and assist us during our earthly pilgrimage. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OUR FATHER

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. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

COMMUNION VERSE

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? Alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, after Your resurrection You openly appeared to Your disciples. In their sight You ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us. Strengthened by the Holy Eucharist, may we continue to serve You faithfully until You come again. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIME OF NATIONAL ANXIETY

Let us pray.
I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation and our world. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of all. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of our people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

REGINA CAELI - ASKING THE INTERCESSION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
For He, whom you did merit to bear. Alleluia.
Has risen as He said. Alleluia.
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia
R. For the Lord has truly risen. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, Who gave joy to the world through the Resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we humbly ask You, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His mother, we may attain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the ☩ Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *AMID HOLY ANGELS*

Jesus is now surrounded by angels, Earth is in awe of His marvelous deeds;
For from amid His faithful Apostles, Our glorious Lord to heav'n proceeds.

Now the true Son returns to His Father, Word everlasting, almighty God,
And from the throne of glory and power, He sends the Spirit from above.

Reign o'er Your Church, Lord, Strengthen Your Temple. Guard and protect us from sins anew.
May faith and concord nurture Your people; Lord, may we fear offending you.

*Compiled from 2006 PNCC Missal and the 2010 PNCC Prayer Book
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May 2020 for those who cannot attend Holy Mass due to the Covid 19 Pandemic*