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Solemnity – Ascension of Our Lord

A Festival Thought

This Easter season of joyous celebration now draws towards its close as we salute Jesus' return to the Father's glory. But what is the joy that marks this time? It is part and parcel of the journey from death to life.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 1:1-11

Even as Jesus departs, he promises the sending of the Spirit. He will not leave us orphans.

Responsorial Psalm:
47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

EPHESIANS 1:17-23

In Jesus' resurrection and glorification, God has tipped his hand. The power at work in Jesus is also at work in us.

MATTHEW 28:16-20

In returning to the Father, Jesus leaves us neither lonely nor idle. In the power of the Spirit, he commissions his church to complete the task of redemption.

ENTRANCE RITE: Luke 24:25-53

V. *As He blessed them 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.

ALLELUIA: Psalm 47:6

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the Lord, amid trumpet blasts.

R. 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!