

**SACRED HEART
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
16 May 2021**

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear words of Jesus and about events related also in all the Gospels (except John), but with some added details: Jesus' promise of the coming of the Spirit, and the two angels who reproach the apostles for staring up to heaven in an effort to see the departed Jesus. There is a further reproach in verses omitted from today's gospel. Jesus reproached the apostles for their incredulity and obstinate refusal to believe reports that he is indeed risen. Finally comes the commission to go out and preach to all creation, and the ascension itself.

We might choose to take serious notice of Jesus' reproach too in our own lives. The expectation of 2R that we 'live in a manner worthy of the call' doesn't only mean regular attendance at Mass but it also means being the person of Christ in our daily encounters in the world beyond the walls of our church. We can be confident in such action because we know that Christ is with us always.

Perhaps the following quote from George MacLeod of Scotland, founder of the Iona Community, may be pertinent ...

*'So we bless you for this place,
for your directing of us,
your redeeming of us, and your indwelling.
Take us outside, Lord.
Outside holiness,
out to where the soldiers gamble, and the thieves curse,
and the nations clash at the cross-roads of the world...*

So shall this building continue to be justified.'

We come to Mass to praise God but also to re-connect, to remind ourselves of the person of Jesus whom we are called to imitate during the week.

Organ Prelude: 'Priere du Christ montant vers son père'

(Prayer of Christ ascending to his father) from L'Ascension by Olivier Messiaen

Introductory Rites

Opening Song: Alleluia, sing to Jesus

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
His the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluia! not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how:
Though the cloud from sight received him,
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluia! Bread of Angels,
Here on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful
Flee to you from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
Earth's redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal,
You the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
Earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
You, within the veil, have entered,
Robed in flesh, our great high priest;
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.**

Text: Revelation 5:9; William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Glory to God: Mass of Joy and Peace (Alonso)

**GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD,
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE, ON EARTH PEACE,
PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL.**

We praise you, we bless you,
We adore you, we glorify you,
We give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD ...

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

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD ...

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.

**GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD,
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE, ON EARTH PEACE,
PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL. AMEN.**

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

Psalm 47: (Jakob)

**God has gone up with shouts of joy.
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

Text: Abbey Psalms & Canticles © 2010, 2018, USCCB
Music: © 1989, 2015, 2021, Philip Jakob

Second Reading:

Gospel Greeting: Easter Alleluia (Bob Hurd)

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

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Universal Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of Gifts & Altar: We walk by faith (Haugen)

**We walk by faith, and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

**We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry 'My Lord and God!'**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**That when our life and faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.**

**We walk by faith, and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

Text: Henry Alford (1810-71) alt.
Music © Haugen, GIA Publications

Eucharistic Acclamations: Mass of Resurrection (Randall DeBruyn)

Holy, Holy – We proclaim your Death – Amen

Communion Rite

Our Father

Lamb of God: Mass of Resurrection (Randall DeBruyn)

Communion Song: Bread of life (Farrell)

**BREAD OF LIFE, HOPE OF THE WORLD,
JESUS CHRIST, OUR BROTHER:
FEED US NOW, GIVE US LIFE,
LEAD US TO ONE ANOTHER.**

**As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise,
to return again.**

**The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.**

**We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.**

**Hold us in unity,
in love for all to see;
that the world may believe in you,
God of all who live.**

**You are the bread of peace,
you are the wine of joy,
broken now for your people,
poured in endless love.**

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Organ Recessional: Fantasia (and Fugue) in G minor by JS Bach

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