

The Feast of the Ascension Year A



As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. ... (First Reading)

**Giotto, The Ascension of Our Lord
Padua, Italy, 1305**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

And behold, I am with you all days till the end of the age.

Jesus,
when you ascended,
you took all your (and our) humanity
into the fullness of the
divine being.

All is holy now.
We belong to you.

We ask you
to give us the "new ways of
thinking, acting, living, loving, and being.
A new way of being human."*

We need your love,
courage, understanding,
knowledge, and your wisdom.

Be with us all days never
Let your Spirit leave us alone.

*Albert Einstein



Go make disciples of all the nation

THE FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

***John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized
with the Holy Spirit.***

Lord,
we are in the upper room
waiting for your Spirit.

Open our minds, our eyes, and our hearts
when your Holy Spirit tells us how
to fix our wars, and everything
that our lack of love
destroys.

Then, help us act on
what we hear!



Let no one have to ask us
“Why are you looking up at the sky?”

THE SECOND READING Ephesians 1:17-23

I keep asking that the God of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may
give you the Spirit of wisdom and
revelation, so that you may know him
better. I pray that the eyes of your
heart may be enlightened in order that
you may know the hope to which he
has called you, the riches of his
glorious inheritance in his holy people,
Ephesians 1:17-18 NIV

Suffering, we ward you off. Yet you steal into our lives.

Live with us. But only if it means that
Christ is within us and that we can know him better.

Lord, let the eyes of our hearts be enlightened
and filled with your kindhearted love,
that cures all. *(Annie Osdieck)*

REFLECTION: The Ascension is a mystery of hope. It is because of the Ascension we can hope that where Jesus Christ now is bodily, we too may also be bodily. We can hope for this because we know a resurrected human body is now at the right hand of the Father. We can also hope, not only because of the Resurrection but also because of the Ascension, that our resurrected bodies will share in his glory.

We are told by Jesus in John's Gospel that his returning to the Father is good for us. It is good for us because he goes to prepare a place for us and he will send us the Holy Spirit; more than this, we have a mission to focus on. Jesus Christ who has all authority on heaven and earth gives us the authority to fulfil our mission, which is a continuation of his mission: make disciples of all nations, baptise, teach others to follow all his commandments (which includes the command at the last supper 'do this in memory of me').

Though he has ascended to his heavenly Father, he is with us in a new way. His Spirit dwells in us. We are united to him by sharing in his Spirit, which is poured into our hearts through baptism, which we receive in the Eucharist; and though he is in heaven and we are in this present earthly life, he dwells within us. We have confidence in our mission, his work, his Kingdom, that one day we will be where he is, because of our union with him. He is with us always, yes, even to the end of time. *(Bro Thomas Therese Mannion OP)*



