

Proper Prayers of the Mass
The Ascension of Our Lord
Provided Courtesy of Una Voce Orange County

COMMENTARY ON THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

It is in the basilica of St Peter, dedicated to one of the chief witnesses of our Lord's ascension, that this mystery which marks the end of our Lord's earthly life, is "this day" (*Collect*) kept.

In the forty days which followed His resurrection, our Redeemer laid the foundations of His Church on which He was soon to send the Holy Ghost.

The *Epistle* and *Gospel* describe the scene of the ascension and summarize its teaching. All the chants of the Mass (*Introit, Alleluia, Offertory, Communion*) celebrate the glory of the Man-God who ascends to the right hand of His Father, while the *Preface* and the *Prayers* mention the share in this great mystery that, henceforward, is ours until one day it is finally granted to us to dwell with Him. Throughout the octave the *Credo* is said so that the Church may express her belief in our Lord's ascension: "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God... He ascended into heaven... He sitteth at the right hand of the Father." The *Gloria* speaks in the same sense: "O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son..., who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us." Throughout the octave the *Communicantes* proper to the feast is said.

Every day the prayers of the Ordinary of the Mass remind us at the Offertory and the Canon (*Suscipe sancta Trinitas - Unde et memores*) that the holy sacrifice is offered in memory of the passion, resurrection, and the glorious ascension into heaven of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the ascension is one of the essential mysteries of our redemption, one of those which all the chosen people of God are called to share in order to be saved: "through Thy death and burial, through Thy holy resurrection, through Thy wonderful ascension, deliver us, O Lord" sings the Church in the Litany of the Saints. We should offer to God the holy sacrifice in memory of the glorious ascension of His Son and cultivate in our souls a burning desire for heaven so that henceforth "we may ever live in mind of heavenly things".

Commentary From St. Andrew Daily Missal, 1952 ed.



While they looked up, He was raised up.

INTROIT: ACTS. 1. 10

VIRI Galiliæ, quid admirâmini aspiciéntes in cælum? allelúia: quemádmódu vidístis eum ascendéntem in cælum, ita véniet, allelúia, allelúia, allelúia. *Ps. 44. 2.* Omnes gentes, pláudite mánibus: jubilate Deo in voce exsultatiónis. *℣.* Glória Patri.

YE men of Galilee, why wonder you, looking up to heaven? alleluia. He shall so come as you have seen Him going up into heaven, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *Ps.* O, clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God, with the voice of exultation. *℣.* Glory be.

COLLECT

Concéde, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui hodiérna die Unigénitum tuum Redemptórem nostrum ad cælos ascendisse crédimus, ipsi quoque mente in cæléstibus habitemus. Per eúmdem Dóminum.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who believe Thine only-begotten Son, our Redeemer, to have this day ascended into heaven, may ourselves dwell in spirit amid heavenly things. Through the same Lord.

EPISTLE: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1. 1-11

Primum quidem sermónem feci de ómnibus, o Theóphile, quæ cœpit Jesus fácere et docére, usque in diem, quæ præcipiens Apóstolis per Spíritum Sanctum, quos elégit, assumptus est: quibus et præbuit seípsum vivum post passiónem suam in multis arguméntis, per dies quadraginta appérens eis et loquens de regno Dei. Et convéscens, præcépit eis ab Jerosólymis ne discéderent, sed exspectárent promissiónem Patris, quam audistis (inquit) per os meum; quia Joánnes quidem baptizávit aqua, vos autem baptizabimini Spíritu Sancto non post multos hos dies. Igitur qui convénerant, interrogábant eum, dicéntes: Dómine, si in témpore hoc restitues regnum Israël? Dixit autem eis:

The former treatise I made, O Theophilus, of all things which Jesus began to do and to teach, until the day on which, giving commandments by the Holy Ghost to the apostles whom He had chosen, He was taken up: to whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, for forty days appearing to them and speaking of the kingdom of God. And eating together with them, He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but should wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard (saith He) by My mouth: for John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. They therefore who were come together asked Him, saying: Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom

PREFACE FOR THE ASCENSION

ómnibus discíplis suis manifestus apparuit, et ipsis cernéntibus est elevátus in cælum, ut nos divinitátis suæ tribúeret esse participes. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes:

rection appeared and showed Himself to all His disciples; and while they beheld Him, was lifted up into heaven, so that He might make us partakers of His Godhead. And therefore with angels and archangels, with thrones and dominions, and with all the heavenly hosts, we sing a hymn to Thy glory, without ceasing:

COMMUNICANTES FOR THE ASCENSION

COMMUNICANTES et diem sacratíssimum celebrántes, quo Dóminus noster, unigénitus Fílius tuus, unitam sibi fragilitátis nostræ substántiam, in glóriæ tuæ dextera collocávit: sed et memóriam venerántes, in primis gloriósæ semper Vírginis Mariæ, Genitricis ejúsdem Dei et Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: sed et...

IN communion with, and keeping the most holy day on which Thine only-begotten Son our Lord set at the right hand of Thy glory the substance of our frail human nature which He had taken to Himself; venerating also in the first place the memory of the glorious ever Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God; also of...

COMMUNION: PS. 67. 33-34

Psállite Dómino, qui ascendit super cælos cælórum ad Orientem, allelúia.

Sing ye to the Lord, who mounteth above the heaven of heavens to the east, alleluia.

POSTCOMMUNION

Præsta nobis, quæsumus, omnípotens et miséricors Deus: ut, quæ visibilibus mystériis suménda percépimus, invisibili consequámur efféctu. Per Dóminum.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, almighty and merciful God, that what we have received in visible mysteries may profit us by its invisible effect. Through our Lord.

PATER •  FILIUS •
SPIRITUS • SANCTUS

EPISTLE: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1. 1-11

Non est vestrum nosse tempora vel momenta quæ Pater posuit in sua potestate: sed accipietis virtutem superveniens Spiritus Sancti in vos, et eritis mihi testes in Jerusalem, et in omni Judæa et Samaria, et usque ad ultimum terræ. Et cum hæc dixisset, videntibus illis elevatus est: et nubes suscepit eum ab oculis eorum. Cumque intuerentur in cælum euntem illum, ecce duo viri astiterunt juxta illos in vestibus albis, qui et dixerunt: Viri Galilæi, quid statis aspicientes in cælum? Hic Jesus, qui assumptus est a vobis in cælum, sic veniet, quemadmodum vidistis eum euntem in cælum.

to Israel? But He said to them: It is not for you to know the times or moments, which the Father hath put in His own power: but you shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth. And when He had said these things, while they looked on, He was raised up: and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they were beholding Him going up to heaven, behold two men stood by them in white garments, who also said: Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so

come, as you have seen Him going into heaven.

FIRST ALLELUIA: PS. 46. 6

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubæ.

Alleluia, alleluia. V. God is ascended with jubilee, and the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

SECOND ALLELUIA: PS. 67. 18-19

Alleluia. V. Dominus in Sina in sancto, ascendens in altum captivam duxit captivitatem. Alleluia.

Alleluia. V. The Lord is in Sina, in the holy place; ascending on high he has led captivity captive. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: MARK 16. 14-20

In illo tempore: Recumbentibus undecim discipulis, apparuit illis Jesus: et exprobravit incredulitatem eorum, et duritiam cordis: quia iis qui viderant eum resurrexisse, non crediderunt. Et dixit eis: Euntes in mundum universum, predicæte Evangelium omni

At that time Jesus appeared to the eleven as they were at table: and He upbraided them with their incredulity and hardness of heart, because they did not believe them who had seen Him after He was risen again. And He said to them: Go ye into the whole world and preach the gos-

GOSPEL: MARK 16. 14-20

creatura. Qui crediderit et baptizatus fuerit, salvus erit: qui vero non crediderit, condemnabitur. Signa autem eos, qui crediderint, hæc sequentur: In nomine meo demonia ejicient: linguis loquentur novis: serpentes tollent: et si mortiferum quid biberint. non eis nocēbit: super ægros manus impōnent, et bene habebunt. Et Dominus quidem Jesus, postquam locutus est eis, assumptus est in cælum, et sedet a dextris Dei. Illi autem profecti, predicaverunt ubique, Domino cooperante, et sermonem confirmante, sequentibus signis. CREDO

pel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be condemned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In My name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay their hands upon the sick, and they shall recover. And the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God. But they going forth preached everywhere, the Lord working withal, and confirming the word with signs that followed. CREED

OFFERTORY: PS. 46. 6

Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubæ, alleluia.

God is ascended with jubilee, and the Lord with the sound of a trumpet, alleluia.

SECRET

Suscipe, Domine, munera, quæ pro Filii tui gloriosa Ascensione deferimus: et concede propitius; ut a presentibus periculis liberemur, et ad vitam perveniamus æternam. Per eundem Dominum.

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer Thee in memory of the glorious Ascension of Thy Son; and graciously grant that being delivered from present dangers, we may attain unto eternal life. Through the same our Lord.

PREFACE FOR THE ASCENSION

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus: per Christum Dominum nostrum. Qui post resurrectionem suam

IT is truly meet and just, right and availing unto salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty and everlasting God; through Christ our Lord. Who after His resur-