

ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Go and Make Disciples

Father of life, your Son returns.
Co-creator and intimate partner,
he ascends to sit at your right hand.
He has conquered sin and death,
his hands marked by the wounds of
his love.

As the Lord passes from our sight,
we practice lifting our hearts,
that we might rise with him one day.
Now he calls us, as he did the
first Apostles,
to go and make disciples throughout
the world.

May we know you are with us always.
May we follow without fear.

May your Kingdom come.

We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ,

your Son, who lives and reigns
with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Announce the Good News

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20. While the Risen One departs from the company of the disciples, he is abandoning neither them nor the Church. Today the Church sings Psalm 47 with gladness: "Sing praises to God, sing praises." The Gospel issues a missionary command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." This is what Jesus intended for the Church: an outward direction. Reflect on the new dismissals found in the third edition of the *Roman Missal*—words of Benedict XVI, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." We are called to do this by virtue of our Baptism.

Christ has shared in our human, fragile nature, and he will call us to be with him, at the right hand of the Father in glory. The Ascension of Christ links us to our longing to be

united with him in his reign forever, and to the joy of experiencing him still with us until the end of time. Christ is the head, and we are the Body, but our hearts ascend with him, so there is no division between head and body, because we, the Body of Christ, cannot be separated from Jesus, the head. After the Ascension, the Apostles learned to experience his presence in a different way—a way that all Christians after them have worked to learn also.

Take time this week to reflect on the Apostle's Creed, which captures the essence of this solemnity in the words, "He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty." Gathered together in the Blessed Trinity, may the Church continue to proclaim with one voice, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, June 2

Saints Marcellinus and Peter

These two early martyrs are included among the saints in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). The Church has always esteemed its Apostles and martyrs who witnessed to the faith with their blood. In this Easter Time, we have heard the stories of many martyrs in Acts of the Apostles, the fascinating story of the earliest Christians. Consider reading more of this book on your own. Today's Readings: Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:2-ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab (33a); John 16:29-33.

Tuesday, June 3

Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions

Charles Lwanga is the patron of victims of torture; he was martyred in Uganda in 1886 for refusing to renounce Christianity in a country led by a corrupt ruler. In the first reading, as Paul travels to Jerusalem, he knows that imprisonment and hardships may await him. Holy martyrs of the Church, hear our prayer! Today's Readings: Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21 (33); John 17:1-11a.

Wednesday, June 4

Honor Your Elders

Paul's speech in today's first reading admonishes the community to care for its elders who "keep watch" and "shepherd the church of God." All of us are called to care for our elders. We can learn from cultural groups who have a great tradition of revering their older members. What will you do to care for and honor the elders in your life? Today's Readings: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab (33a); John 17:11b-19.

Thursday, June 5

Saint Boniface

Boniface, who was born in England and became a great missionary, died in 754; he is known as the patron saint of brewers and Apostle to the Germans. His feast day is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Anglican Communion and the Eastern Orthodox Church. In today's Gospel, Jesus prays "that they may all be one." The Second Vatican Council, in its *Decree on Ecumenism* (*Unitatis redintegratio*), along with the last five pontiffs, have promoted the unity of all Christians. Pray for Christian unity, that all may be one. Today's Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7v-8, 9-10, 11 (1); John 17:20-26.

Friday, June 6

Saint Norbert

Norbert, who died in 1134, is the patron of safe deliveries at childbirth. He founded the order of Premonstratensians, known as the Norbertines, who live in several abbeys across the country and in many throughout the world. Today's psalm (103) invites us to "Bless the LORD, O my soul / and all that is within me, / bless his holy name." Today's Readings: Acts 25:13b-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19v-20ab (19a); John 21:15-19.

Saturday, June 7

Come, Holy Spirit!

As we conclude Easter Time, our focus is now on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the Spirit's role in the Church. The Eucharist sustains the Church for its missionary activity. Like the disciples, we are called to come out from behind closed doors and forgive, reconcile, and welcome in a fragile and broken world. How will you allow the Holy Spirit to shape you into a vessel of peace, hope, and reconciliation? Come, Holy Spirit! Today's Readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7 (7b); John 21:20-25.



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 Keeping the Seasons

Reproducibles for Lent-Triduum-Easter 2014