

Ascension of the Lord May 4, 2008

(Acts 1: 1-11, Eph. 1: 17-23, Mt. 28: 16-20)

Theme: Remember you are not alone, Jesus is with you.

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. After the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, he stayed with his disciples for forty days, blessing them and strengthening their faith in him. He filled them with his love and peace, gave them power to forgive sins and promised them the Holy Spirit.

After giving them this authority he received from his Father, he commissioned them and sent them out to make disciples of all nations, teaching them all that they had learned from him. To teach the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead and baptize all who believe in him. He also promised to be with them always till the end of time. After this command, as they were watching him, he ascended into heaven.

With this mandate from Christ, the early church began and continued the divine work of our redeemer on earth, which we are doing today.

The Church has continued this mission by making Christ present in our lives through the Sacraments.

In the lonely moments of our lives, always bear in mind that you are not alone, Christ is with you. As you participate in this command of Jesus to spread the gospel, always know that you are not working alone. Jesus is always there working with you through his Spirit.

Let us use this period to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and may we open up all the windows and doors of our lives and families to receive the Holy Spirit; who is coming as our Advocate and will make known to us God's wisdom.