

Ascension of Our Lord Into Heaven

(Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53)

Theme: Our Lord Ascends into Heaven But Still Is With Us.

Today we celebrate the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. After, our Lord's resurrection, He stayed with His Apostles for forty days, strengthening them with His gifts of peace, power, and the Holy Spirit. "After His suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom." (Acts 1)

Jesus also promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate to the disciples who will open "their minds to truths of the Kingdom of God." With all these blessing Jesus prepared the Church to bear Him witness to the world. The church continues this work of Christ on earth through her prayers, preaching of the word of God, the sacraments, the sacrifices of the Holy Eucharist, works of charity, corporal works of mercy and social works.

The physical departure of Christ in our world to heaven does not mean that He is no longer present with us. Christ is still present on our lives through various ways. He lives and works in our world today in and through the Church. For through the church's sacraments, Christ blessings are made present to us again. For whenever we gather to pray in his name, Jesus is always with us. For Jesus promised that "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst."

The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist also makes Christ present in our lives. For Jesus said "He who eats my body lives in me and I in him." (John 6)

Dear Friends in Christ, as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus into heaven today, let us always realize that, He is also still present in our lives.