

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations. I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him, they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

*Please stay well and stay safe. God Bless
Until we can meet again*



St Peter's RC Church
7 St Peter's Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE

St Michael's RC
Church & Hall,
Silver Street
Tetbury
GL8 8DH



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday 21st May 2020



Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus, whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia

The Solemnity of the Ascension, marks the return of the Risen Lord to the Father as He takes His place in glory. He returns to the Father having achieved what He was sent to do – save the world from sin. It also marks the passing of the baton to the Apostles and to us. We are called to spread the Good News and ‘To make disciples of all the nations.

The way we communicate the Good News we choose to share with others is a vital part of our role as living intentional disciples of Jesus. The readings urge us not to cling too tightly to our personal images of God and of how we think He has revealed Himself in the past. To receive the fullness of what God has for us and to enable the Church to do so also, we need to be open to the greater revelation that He has in mind for us of Himself, of His love, and of His goodness.

God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—wants so much more for us than we can imagine. He wants to demonstrate His power in and through us. He desires us to be part of His eternal plan. Only limits we set for God and for ourselves can limit God’s ability to achieve His desires for our lives.

Following some very hard, demanding and painful months, we too are reminded that the Lord is always with us as we are being continuously sent out in his name. These days many people are searching for answers; a number of people are watching Mass via the internet; some are re-connecting with their faith. We can choose, to remain where we are in our spiritual journey.

God goes up with shouts of joy! The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.



First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is’ he had said ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’

Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most-High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.