

Ascension of the Lord – May 24, 2020



Jesus' promise:

**"I am with you
always"**

(Matthew 28:20).

"Do not be afraid!"

'Neither death,
nor life,
nor angels,
nor principalities,
nor present things,
nor future things,
nor powers,
nor height,
nor depth,
nor any other creature'
can separate you from
my love."

(Romans 8:38-39)

First Reading *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47:2-3,6-9

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus charges his disciples to make disciples of all nations and promises to be with them forever.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

In this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

Family Connection

Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should call people to discipleship by the example of our love for one another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world.

Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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Pray in Authority

Luke 10:19a

"I have give you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy".

Pray without Fear

Luke 10:19b

"... nothing will harm you,"

Pray for Protection

Psalm 91:10

" No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling."

Pray for the Doctors

James 1:5

" if you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you asking."

Pray for Healing fot those who are infected

Isaiah 53:5

"But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him. And by His stripes we are healed."

And the most importantly,

Pray in the name of Jesus

Philippians 2:9,10

" Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knees should bow, in heaven and the earth and under the earth."

C.O.V.I.D.- 19

Christ over viruses and infectious diseases

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened;

do not be discouraged,

for the Lord your God will be

with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9