

The Good News: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Ascension of the Lord

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Acts 1:1–11 | Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17–23 | Gospel: Mark 16:15–20



In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see Hebrews 4:14–15).

Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32) because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
May 5th – May 13th , 2018

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	May 12th	Sunday Vigil Eliard Finn – RIP – by the Finn and McGregor families
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	May 13th	Ascension of the Lord Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the family Richard Isa – RIP – by Leila
Monday	May 14^h	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	May 15th	Weekday Roland Labonte – RIP – by Linda Piper
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	May 16th	Weekday Maria E. S. Melo and Jose Jacinto de Ponte – RIP – by Delta de Ponte
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	May 17th	Weekday In Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity – by Mercedes and family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	May 18th	Saint John I Deceased Members of the Yvorchuk family – RIP – by the family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	May 19th	Sunday Vigil Bruna Alesi – RIP - by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	May 20th	Pentecost Sunday Victor O. Kramer – RIP – by the family In Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit – by Mercedes and family

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

Collection:
May 6, 2018 - **\$2,827.50**
You Lift Me Up - **\$1,210.00** (bringing our total to **\$111,926.00**)
Thank you for your generosity.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS



All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

- Posted on June 19, 2010 by Jisha, Copyright 2018 – Catholic Prayers

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

Important Dates :

May 19, 2018 - Confirmation

May 26, 2018 - First Reconciliation

June 2, 2018 - First Communion

Registrations for September will soon be available. Please contact Connie Kuhr if you would like to have information.

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -St.Alphonsus Ligouri

THE FOOD BANK "OASIS"



Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.