

The Ascension of the Lord

May 12, 2024: Acts 1:1-11 | Ps 47:2-3,6-9 | Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 | Mk 16:15-20

Pray: Holy Spirit, open my heart and enflame me with your love so I can share Jesus' Good News with everyone through my words and deeds. Amen.

Called by Christ to Spread Love, Hope, Truth, and Peace.

At the Ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to proclaim the Gospel. Our baptismal calling invites us, too, to share the Gospel with everyone. The Gospel's Good News is this: God has a plan for each of us. Sin interferes with God's plan and separates us from Him. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffered, died, and rose so we could be forgiven and united to God forever.

Jesus and his teachings of love, mercy, forgiveness, and service to others offer a positive and fruitful way of living in this dark and selfish world and a sure pathway to our home in heaven.

St. Paul calls on all Christians to follow Jesus' example and love one another with humility, gentleness, and patience. Jesus's message of love, truth, forgiveness, peace, hope, and justice is for everyone.

Sacred Scripture repeatedly reveals God's preferential love for the poor, the vulnerable, the oppressed, and the lost. Christ calls His followers to unite with Him through the gifts and guidance of the Holy Spirit to reach the hearts of those who live in poverty. This poverty does not only exist in financial need. Jesus wants us to reach out to those starving for love, thirsting for friendship with God, and struggling for justice and peace.



Jesus is the answer. Our call as Christians is to know and love Christ so much that we reflect Him in our lives, and others will see Him in us. When we love God with our whole hearts, minds, and souls, we will see Christ in others, too, and we will joyfully share our faith and trust in the Lord as we strive in humility to serve those in need of God's mercy and grace.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Who is God calling you to share the Gospel with?
- † How might you get closer to Christ so that your love for Him will continue growing and your passion for sharing the Gospel will increase?
- † In what new ways are we being called to spread the Gospel of Christ? What new needs is God asking us to address?
- † Who are the poor and poor in spirit whom God wants us to help?