

Homily for the Ascension of the Lord, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. On this solemnity, we remember and we celebrate Jesus who is returning to His Father and our Father in Heaven, giving His disciples a great responsibility to witnesses of His Gospel, and to carry His message of salvation to the World.

First, Jesus instructs His disciples and reminds them that His Passion and Resurrection were part of God's plan, a plan of redemption, hope, and eternal life for all, and this is what He gives them as a mission: "That repentance for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47-48)

With these words, Jesus entrusts His disciples, and all of us, with the task of spreading the Good News to all the nations.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Ascension of the Lord is not an ending, but a beginning. His departure does not mean His absence; rather, He promises to remain with us through the Holy Spirit.

Before ascending, Jesus blesses His disciples, and they return to Jerusalem with great joy. Unlike Good Friday, when they were filled with sorrow, they now understand that the Ascension is a moment of glory, of fulfillment, and of hope.

Therefore, this Solemnity teaches us three important truths:

1. Christ is risen and reigns forever in Glory. He ascended in Heaven, but He remains close to us, guiding His Church.
2. We are His witnesses, called to share His message with the World.
3. The Holy Spirit is always with us, leading us in our mission.

As disciples today, Jesus calls us to live with faith, confidence, and joy, to trust that He is always with us. The Ascension reminds us that our goal is not just life on earth but eternal communion with God. We are meant to look beyond, to live with hope, and to work for the Kingdom that Jesus has prepared for us.

So, as we celebrate this solemnity, let us ask the Lord God to give us His light, so that we can truly live as witnesses of His Son Jesus Christ, and may His Ascension inspire us to share His life and His love, proclaiming His mercy, and trusting in His promise that He will never leave us alone. This way, we will be preparing to join Him and sit at His right in Heaven, where He reigns now and for all the ages.

Amen.