



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20 Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

Today's Gospel is part of the collection of appearance accounts of Jesus drawn from other Gospels. Faith and baptism are necessary for salvation. How are believers identified? Before Jesus leaves, He reminds his disciples of what He expects from them. He sends them out to act and speak in His Name. What do you think He expects from us? How are you equipped to do God's work?

Reading I: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

The disciples were instructed to wait for the promise of the Father. Jesus moves his disciples from knowledge to mission. Knowledge belongs to the Father alone, but the Holy Spirit would empower them. What will the Holy Spirit empower them to do? In what ways could we be more open to the Holy Spirit?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

St. Paul defines the believer as one filled with knowledge of the triune God and having enlightenment regarding the hope and inheritance that belong to the holy ones. Equipped with the understanding that the Spirit is with us, is our willingness to do God's work stronger, easier, more fervent?

Feast days this week

**SUNDAY 12 ECCLESATICAL PROVINCES OF BOSTON, HARTFORD, NEW YORK, OMAHA, PHILADELPHIA:
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

[ALL OTHER PROVINCES] - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MONDAY 13 EASTER WEEKDAY [OUR LADY OF FATIMA]

TUESDAY 14 ST. MATTIAS, FEAST

WEDNESDAY 15 EASTER WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 16 EASTER WEEKDAY

FRIDAY 17 EASTER WEEKDAY

SATURDAY 18 EASTER WEEKDAY

reflect

How does the Holy Spirit speak to me today?

pray

Father God, may I always understand your Will with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

Live eagerly for the Lord and His trust in His promises.