

**Ascension Sunday B- 2018**  
**Acts 1.1-11///Eph.4.1-13///Mark 16.15-20**

→”*You’re gonna miss this.*”

--is a line from a country song by Chet Atkins

--this country song is about a young girl who is anxious about her life....

→”*I can’t wait ‘til I’m 18 and out of school....I’ll make my own rules*” she says as

→her mother leans over, kisses her and says....”*someday, you’re going to miss this school, you’re going to miss these days.*”

→the song continues...and the girl gets married, moves into an apartment.

→her father stops by... and she talks about babies and buying a house and he says,

*“Slow down...someday you’re going to miss this.”*

→in the next verse, the kids are crying, another one’s screaming...and the mother keeps apologizing as the plumber calls out from beneath the sink:

*“not to worry...I got kids of my own...someday, you’re going to miss this.”*

→[now] that country song seems oddly appropriate for this month of May...the month that marks so many mile-stones in the lives of so many of us

→proms...graduations...Mother’s Day...First Communion...family gatherings on Memorial Day....it is a busy month on everyone’s calendar

→the grass turns green, the weather turns nice...and the weekends fill up

→and we realize just how much we don't want to miss....how we want to hang on to as much of life as possible...

→and as we hear today....so did the apostles in the days leading up to the Ascension of the Lord into heaven [the feast we celebrate today]

→today they stand perplexed, looking up into heaven:

[and as we hear from our 1<sup>st</sup> reading] “Men of Galilee....why do you stand here staring into the sky....”

---it is only natural...that...the apostles didn't want to let go...they didn't want to miss any of it....and neither do we

PAUSE

->I think it is important to note that today the Feast of the Ascension does not celebrate or mark the END of Jesus's presence in our world [*that we aren't missing anything*].....on the contrary what it does celebrate is a change in the way Jesus is now present to us in our world today.

→today we celebrate the fact that Jesus remains ever present to you and me in the same way he remained ever present to his disciples.....and that is through his sacrament, and through our faith

----Jesus is present in his Church and in and through you and me.

---and so I think it is important to remember that the feast of the Ascension does not mark the end of the Presence of Christ in our world but more so marks the beginning of a new presence of Christ...that is manifested through you and me, and through our words and actions with the Holy Spirit

→the apostles didn't want to let go of what had become familiar and routine...even if it was extraordinary and majestic

→and often...neither do we wish to let go [as well] of that which connects us to and gives meaning and purpose to our lives...

→and so.....what do we do.....graduates put on caps and gowns....seven year olds are in veils and ties...relatives take pictures and god-parents give presents

→but in the end, there is only one gift that counts...the gift of the Jesus Christ rooted in the Holy Spirit in our lives

--as we hear so eloquently in our second reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

*---preserve the unity of the Spirit...through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit...as you were also called to the one hope of your calling...one Lord, one faith, one baptism...one God and Father of all...who is over all and through all and in all*

PAUSE.

---on this day 2000 years ago, Jesus passed on to us, the responsibility of making him present in our modern world.

---He passed on to us, the responsibility of having his words and message heard and listened too

----and he passed on to us, the responsibility of continuing his work and mission in our world

→and that is why we gather once again in this room.....around this table....and do these sacred actions....

-→to remind ourselves of the great responsibility we have to each other and ourselves to make the Lord “present” in our everyday lives and world.

*PAUSE*

→today marks the anniversary of you and me receiving our the mission to carry on that presence until the end of time

it is the anniversary of the beginning of our mission to be disciples of Christ

to be witnesses to the teachings and way of life of Christ

--with physical eyes...we see bread and wine on the altar...yet with the eyes of the Spirit alive in us...we behold the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

--with physical eyes...we see baptismal water splashed upon an infant’s skin...yet with the eyes of the Spirit alive in us we behold the life giving fluid of the Holy Spirit

--we see children in veils and dresses in shirts and ties receiving Holy Communion...and in doing so we see the Spirit at work...alive in us...

--[and] each year we view processions of graduates in caps and gowns...only to see the Spirit alive in dreams and aspirations

→these are the visions of the God in whom we live and move and have our being

→these are the visions of Jesus alive in our midst

→these are the visions of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives..

--in the vocations we live...in the lives we lead...in the people we love...in the  
faith we profess

→and so there is.....no need to gaze into the sky on this day....for as long as we live in  
the Spirit,

→as long as Jesus Christ is present to us...as long as our loving God is rooted in  
who are....

→we won't miss a thing!