

## **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

### **I AM GOING TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU**

**May 11/12, 2024**

Is the Ascension of the Lord another disappointment to the disciples? The answer may be yes. This is because they never thought the Lord was going to die in that manner, and when He appeared to them after resurrection, they thought He was going to stay with them for a long time. They were happy and they thought He was going to restore the kingdom at that time. They asked: "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" So, seeing Him going up was a disappointment for them.

In His teachings to His disciples Jesus mentioned that He had to go to where He came from. This made them sad, so He said to them: "I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you; but now I am going to the one who sent me...Still I am telling you the truth; it is for your own good that I am going, because unless I go the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go I will send Him to you" (Jn.16:4b-7).

So, it was necessary for the Lord to go in order to prepare a place for His disciples, and to assure us of His power over sin and death. It is also to show His power for us who believe. The Ascension of the Lord is not a desertion by the Lord, but to empower us to be witnesses and to make known the love and power of God to the world. This is because "grace is given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift" and we are to live in a manner worthy of Christ's call we have received.

Even though the disciples were with Jesus, and they witnessed many miracles, they did not understand many of the things He told them. He was aware of it, that was why He told them that it was necessary for Him to go so that the Holy Spirit would come to teach them to understand everything. The Spirit was to give them courage and wisdom they needed to continue the work He commissioned them to undertake.

The Ascension of the Lord is our hope heaven's gate is opened. It is also to remind us that where the Master is, we shall also be. But before we are able to be with Him where He is, we have to be faithful witnesses to Him. We are to make good use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we have received. The Lord has equipped us with the gifts for the work of ministry for building up the body

of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God. This means that if the Christian community will grow, it depends on how each and every believer is using his or her gift for the common good. Like the body, as St. Paul told the believers in Corinth, every part has a function to play for the salvation of all.

Jesus is going to prepare a place for us, and He will come back to take us to where He is that was why He told His disciples: "I shall not leave you orphans; I shall come to you; you will see that I live and you also will live" (Jn.14:18-19). He has commissioned us to evangelize. No one is exempted. That is why after Mass we are told to go home to glorify God. But many of us do not think that it is part of our Christian obligation to share the message we hear at Mass with others. We forget or we do not know that we are part of the great commission of making disciples of the whole world.

"Go to 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". Is this message only given to the disciples at that time or to the disciples of today too? Am I a disciple? Are you a disciple? If I am a disciple, and you too are a disciple, then it applies to us both. I cannot just gaze to the sky with despair as it happened to the disciples during the Ascension, but to live a life in the Spirit. I am to be an evangelist to my mother and father, brothers and sisters, friends and fellow workers, to your husband and wife, to your children, until the coming of the Lord. If I do not bring people to Jesus, I may take them to Satan, because of my bad example and unkind words.