

CELEBRATING THE ASCENSION of OUR LORD into HEAVEN

This High Priest of ours is One Who has taken His seat in heaven, on the right hand of that throne where God sits in majesty. Hebrews 8:1



We pause and remember that the Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus is never far from us. He is with us in the Sacred Word, the Holy Sacraments and in One Another. All glory and praise, blessing and thanks to You, our abiding God.

HYMN

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!
Glorious to His native skies: Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia

There the glorious triumph waits;
Alleluia!

Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
Take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

See! He lifts His hands above, Alleluia!
See! He shows the prints of love:
Alleluia!

Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on His Church below. Alleluia!

Lord, beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!
Raise our hearts to reach Your height,
Alleluia!

There Your face unclouded see, Alleluia!
Find our heaven of heavens in Thee.
Alleluia!



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess how far we have strayed from Christ and His ways.

For the times when we forget Christ and value each other by the outward trappings of social status, power and wealth:

Lord have mercy. / Lord have mercy.

For the times when we applaud the humility and sacrifice of Jesus yet we live by the rules of people like Herod, Caiaphas and Pilate:

Christ have mercy. / Christ have mercy.

For the times when we even try to measure our faith by the kind of success applauded by this arrogant yet lost and bewildered world,
Lord have mercy. / Lord have mercy.

LET US PRAY:

**Most loving God, we believe that Jesus has been gathered to Your right hand, and made the Hope of the universe. We pray for His universal love to captivate our lives. May we in heart and mind daily live, through Him, close to You, and discover the glory of heaven which is here on earth for those who believe. To Your praise and through His name we pray.
Amen!**

SCRIPTURE 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.”**



PSALM 47

**God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
Alleluia.
All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
God mounts His throne amid shouts of joy;
the Lord, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise
to our King, sing praise.**

GOSPEL LUKE 24:46-53

Jesus said to His disciples:

“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with Power from on high.” Then He led them out as far as Bethany, raised His hands, and blessed them. As He blessed them He parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did Him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

REFLECTION DE LA SALLE’S MEDITATION

Acknowledge that it is, indeed, a great advantage for us that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; it is from there that come all the gifts that should enrich and adorn our souls. In fact, it is by virtue of the power over all creatures both in heaven and on earth which Jesus Christ received this day, that He is so generous toward His people. As our Head, He makes us share in the life of grace, the fullness of which dwells in Him, and as our Mediator, He presents our good works and prayers to God His Father. He Himself prays for us “to draw down God’s mercy on us and prevent God from turning God’s anger against us when we offend Him. Say with Saint Augustine, then, that Jesus Christ’s ascension is our glory, the motive of our hope, and the promise of our happiness. Let us make ourselves worthy to have Jesus Christ as our King, our Head, and our Mediator.

PRAYER

Jesus, we honor You on the feast of Your Ascension into heaven. We rejoice with all our hearts at the glory into which You entered to reign as King of heaven and earth. When the struggle of this life is over, give us the grace to share Your joy and triumph in heaven for all eternity. We believe that You entered into Your glorious Kingdom to prepare a place for us, for You promised to come again to take us to Yourself. Grant that we may seek only the joys of Your friendship and love, so that we may deserve to be united with You in heaven. In the hour of our own homecoming, when we appear before Your Father to give an account of our life on earth, have mercy on us. Jesus, in Your love for us You have brought us from evil to good and from misery to happiness. Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness. May Your Humanity give us courage in our weakness and free us from our sins.

Through Your grace, give us the courage of perseverance for You have called and justified us by faith. May we hold fast to the life You have given us and come to the eternal gifts You promised.

You love us, dear Jesus. Help us to love You in return. By Your unceasing care, guide our steps toward the life of glory You have prepared for those who love You. Make us grow in holiness and thank You by a life of faithful service. Amen. Alleluia!

**HYMN of PRAISE and THANKSGIVING
God of the humble and the homeless
the poor and the persecuted,
we thank You for exalting Christ Jesus
and giving Him a name above all other names.**

**Today we rejoice
that the meekest and truest
of all earth's children
is at Your right hand**

**Now we know for sure
that the homeless Son of Man
is more truly at home
than anyone else on earth.**

**Today the poor Teacher
who begged for a cup of water
and slept on the wild heath,
shows us the way to glory**

**With gratitude we sing
of the Man on a cross
Who's now the exalted first-born
of a new, everlasting race.**

**All thanks and praise to You
God of Christ Jesus and our God!
God of the defeated and the lonely,
the despised and the hungry,
the misjudged and the imprisoned,
the suffering and the dying,
we rejoice with great joy
praising His name
and adoring Your love!
Amen. Alleluia!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: King of Glory, hear our prayer.

Holy Friend, loving God and Savior, we pray to You, both when we are at our wits end and on those days when we feel reasonably capable and competent.

We ask You to bless our attempts to aid at least some of the lonely, suffering, bewildered, and grieving people on earth. We pray:

Please, by the loving work of Your Holy Spirit, do for our fellow human beings that which we cannot manage to do. We pray:

May no child of earth, be they friend or stranger, ever face distress or calamity on their own. We pray:

Loving God, to You all persons are precious. No neighbor is a nuisance. No enemy is beyond the limits of forgiveness. Please teach us Your ways. We pray:

Let no person be forgotten, none neglected, none despised, and none judged as unworthy of the best care that is available. We pray:

LET US PRAY: Bring the day nearer when your church on earth may become more truly a redeemed and redeeming community of grace, mercy and peace. We ask this through Christ Jesus, our exalted Brother and Lord. Amen!

RESPONSE From the NICENE CREED

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

DISMISSAL

Christ is lifted up, above all other names;

therefore go out into the world in peace,

living with courage, not repaying wrong with wrong.

Christ is at God's right hand,

therefore support the weak and respect everyone,

rejoicing as we serve the Lord Jesus.

May the blessing of the God of peace consecrate us,

and keep us healthy in body, mind and soul,

and without shame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The One who calls us is faithful,

and will certainly do this!

In the name of God the Father, and Jesus the Ascended Son, and the Holy Spirit Who fills us with grace and life. Amen. Alleluia!



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to live as Your worthy disciples
always spreading the Gospel message.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



BEING WITNESSES

**What message about Jesus do we want to communicate?
What talents do we have to make this communication effective?
What sign do we want to give that we are followers of Jesus?
Who do we want to receive our communication about Jesus?
Pray that Jesus will make Himself known through our witness.**