

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (Feria Days)

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The liturgical festival of the Ascension, while less ancient than that of Pentecost, is one of the oldest of the cycle, and was already so universally observed that St. Augustine was able to attribute its institution to the Apostles themselves.

At Rome, the Pope, after the night Office was concluded, and after Mass had been celebrated at the altar of St. Peter, was crowned by the cardinals, and towards the sixth hour was accompanied by bishops and clergy to the Lateran.

On this day Jesus was taken up into heaven; His faithful disciples continued to gaze heavenward. The contemplative vision of Paradise is reserved, however, for those who have already passed into the Church Triumphant.

The supreme glorification of the Head, Who is this day enthroned at the right hand of the Father in heaven, affects the members also, like the precious balsam which, as the psalmist tells us, descended from the head of Aaron on to his flowing beard and on to his gorgeous pontifical vestments. This spiritual unction is the gift of the Holy Ghost, which Christ obtains today from heaven for his Church. Hence the connection between the Ascension and Pentecost is very close, nor can we understand the one without the other.

INTROIT Acts 1: 11

Viri Galilæi, quid admirâmini, aspiciéntes in cælum? allelúja: quem ádmódu vidístis eum ascendéntem in cælum, ita véniet. allelúja, allelúja, allelúja. (Ps. 46: 2) Omnes gentes pláudite máribus; jubiláte Deo in voce exultatiónis. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Viri Galilæi, quid admirâmini, aspiciéntes in cælum? allelúja: quem ádmódu vidístis eum ascendéntem in cælum, ita véniet. allelúja, allelúja, allelúja.

COLLECT

Concède, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut qui hodiérna die Unigénitum tuum Redemptórem nostrum ad cælos ascendisse crédimus, ipsi quoque mente in cæléstibus habitémus. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Acts 1: 1-11

Primum quidem sermónem feci de ómnibus, o Theóphile, quæ cœpít Jesus fácere et docére usque in diem, quá, præcipiens Apóstolis per Spíritum Sanctum, quos elégit, assúptus est: quibus et præbuit seípsum vivum post passiónem suam in multis arguméntis, per dies quadragínta apparens eis, et loquens de regno Dei. Et convéscens, præcépít eis, ab Jerosólymis ne discéderent, sed expectárent promissiónem Patris, quam audístis (inquit) per os meum: quia Joánnes quidem baptizávit aqua, vos autem baptizabímini Spíritu Sancto non post multos hos dies. Ígitur qui convenerant, interrogábant eum, dicéntes: Dómine, si in témpore hoc restítues regnum Israél? Dixit autem eis: Non est vestrum nosse témpora vel moménta, quæ Pater vósuít in sua potestáte: sed accipiétis virtútem superveniéntis Spíritus Sancti in vos, et éritis mihi testes in Jerúsalem, et in omni Judæa, et Samaria, et usque ad últimum terræ. Et cum hæc dixisset, vidéntibus illis, elevátus est: et nubes suscepít eum ab óculis eórum. Cumque intueréntur in cælum eúntem illum, ecce duo viri adstítérunt juxta illos in véstibus albis, qui et dixérunt: Viri Galilæi, quid statis aspiciéntes in cælum? Hic Jesus, qui assúptus est a vobis in cælum, sic véniet, quemádmódu vidístis eum eúntem in cælum.

GREATER ALLELUIA Psalms 46: 6

Allelúja, allelúja. Ascéndit Deus in jubilatíone, et Dóminus in voce tubæ. Allelúja. (Ps. 67: 18, 19) Dóminus in Sina in sancto, ascéndens in altum, captívam duxit captivitátem. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Mark 16: 14-20

In illo témpore: Recumbéntibus úndecim discipulis, apparúit illis Jesus, et exprobrávit incredulitátem eórum et durítiam cordis: quía iis, qui viderant eum resurrexisse, non crediderunt. Et dixit eis: Eúntes in mundum Evangélium, prædicáte Evangélium omni creatúræ. Qui crediderit et baptizátus fuerit, salvus erit: qui vero non crediderit, condemnábitur. Signa autem eos, qui crediderint, hæc sequéntur: In nómini meo dæmónia ejicient: linguis loquéntur novis: serpéntes tollent et si mortíferum quid biberint, non eis nocébit: super ægros manus impónent, et bene habébunt. Et Dóminus quidem Jesus, postquam locútus est eis, assúptus est in cælum, et sedet a dextris Dei. Illi autem profécti, prædicavérunt ubique, Dómino cooperánte, et sermónem confirmánte, sequéntibus signis.

OFFERTORY Psalms 46: 6

Ascendit Deus in jubiliatíone: et Dóminus in voce tubæ, allelúja.

SECRET

Súscipe, Dómine, múnera, quæ pro Fílii tui gloriósa Ascensióne deférimus: et concède propítius; ut a præsentíbus periculis liberémur, et ad vitam perveniámus ætérnam. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE FOR THE ASCENSION

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique gratiáre ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Qui post resurrectionem suam ómnibus discipulis suis manifestus apparúit, et ipsas cernéntibus est elevátus in cælum, ut nos divinité suæ tribúeret esse participes. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, et Thronis et Dominationibus cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalms 67: 33-34

Psállite Dómino, qui ascéndit super cælos cælórum ad Oriéntem, allelúja.

POSTCOMMUNION

Præsta nobis, quæsumus, omnipotens et miséricors Deus: ut, quæ visibílibus mystériis suménda percépimus, invisibíli consequámur effectú. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Ye men of Galilee, why wonder you, looking up to Heaven? Alleluia. He shall so come as you have seen Him going up into Heaven, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (Ps. 46: 2) O clap your hands, all ye nations shout unto God, with the voice of exultation. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Ye men of Galilee, why wonder you, looking up to Heaven? Alleluia. He shall so come as you have seen Him going up into Heaven, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God: that we, who believe Thine only-begotten Son, our Redeemer, to have ascended on this day into heaven, may also ourselves dwell in mind amid heavenly things. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The former treatise I made, O Theophilus, of all things which Jesus began to do and to teach, until the day on which, giving commandments by the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen, He was taken up: to whom also He showed Himself alive after His Passion by many proofs, for forty days appearing to them and speaking of the Kingdom of God. And eating together with them, He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but should wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard (saith He), by My mouth; for John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. They therefore who were come together asked Him, saying: Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel? But He said to them: It is not for you to know the times or moments which the Father hath put in His own power: but you shall receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth. And when He had said these things, while they looked on, He was raised up: and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they were beholding Him going up to heaven, behold two men stood by them in white garments, who also said: Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come as you have seen Him going into heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia. God is ascended with a shout, and the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia. (Ps. 67: 18, 19) The Lord is in Sinai, in the holy place; ascending on high He hath led captivity captive. Alleluia.

At that time Jesus appeared to the eleven as they were at table: and He upbraided them with their incredulity and hardness of heart, because they did not believe them who had seen Him after He was risen again. And He said to them: Go ye into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be condemned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In My name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents and if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay their hands upon the sick, and they shall recover. And the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God. But they going forth preached everywhere, the Lord working withal, and confirming the word with signs that followed.

God is ascended with a shout, and the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia.

Receive, O Lord: the gifts we offer up to Thee, for the glorious Ascension of Thy Son: and mercifully grant that we may be freed from present perils and attain unto everlasting life. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, through Christ our Lord. Who, after His Resurrection, appeared openly to all His disciples, and, while they looked on, was taken up into heaven, in that He might grant unto us to be sharers in His own divinity. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Sing ye to the Lord, Who mounteth above the Heaven of heavens to the East, alleluia.

Grant to us, we beseech Thee: almighty and merciful God, that we may obtain the invisible effects of that which we have shared by communion in visible mysteries. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.