

OUR HOUSEHOLD CHURCH: Gratitude in Witness

Feast of the Ascension: 29 May 2022

CALL TO THE FEAST

All: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

(You may begin by singing a song together.)

Leader: It is our desire and response to your love that brings us to give you thanks today.

Creator God, we come to know your bountiful gifts both on earth and in the heavens.

Your gifts sustain us both physically and spiritually, as individuals and as your community.

Leader: Your Word created the world. **All:** Thank you, Source of Life!

Leader: Your design and harmony we see in Creation is the fruit of your Word.

All: Thank you, Incarnating Word!

Leader: You gave us the same Word made flesh as Mediator. **All:** Thank you, Word Made Flesh!

Leader: Jesus has spoken your words to us and called us to follow him. **All:** Thank you for your call!

Leader: Jesus is the way that leads us to you. **All:** Thank you for walking with us!

Leader: Jesus is the truth that sets us free. **All:** Thank you for opening our eyes to see you!

Leader: Jesus is the life that fills us with gladness. **All:** Thank you, Source of Life!

Leader: Through Jesus you continue to gather people of all nations, races, tribes and cultures.

All: Open our eyes to see your face in everyone we encounter!

Leader: You made all of us into one family for the glory of your name. **All:** Thank you for our family!

Leader: You redeemed all of us by the Blood of his Cross. **All:** May our witness heal others!

Leader: You signed us with the seal of the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation

All: as well as in every moment you break into our awareness and we are inspired to respond to other people's needs as you would. Amen!

WE READ, LISTEN and SHARE:

For today's complete Readings [click here](#) . Today's Readings, [OLD TESTAMENT](#) and [NEW TESTAMENT](#) can be read or simply read the [GOSPEL](#).

While someone reads the Scripture(s), listen well. BE AWARE OF THE IMAGE BEING PAINTED, OR THE STORY BEING TOLD. DOES THE STORY OR THE IMAGE CALL TO MIND ANYTHING SIMILAR IN YOUR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCE? After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s):

✓ *What influence should our Faith life have on our work, study, or relate to the world around us?*

✓ *What Scripture figure or action by Biblical people could be goals to emulate - incarnate?*

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After important and impactful events in our lives, it is good to go and sit and spend time reflecting on what has transpired. Often, we are too taken up by the events to do so. The Feast of the Ascension is one of those Liturgical moments to sit and be still. The author of Acts writes, **[Jesus] enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak."**

✓ *When was the last time you took a pause to reflect on the action of the Spirit of the Living God in your life?*

✓ *What's that saying? **The unreflective life is an un-lived life!** What could that mean to/for you?*

✓ *What comes up when you catch yourself reflecting about life's events? Can you/Have you ever connected the reflective moment with the question of how you "got here?"*

✓ *How has/could this reflection give you the courage to address an issue, fear, hope or expectation?*

Paul, to the community in Thessalonica, writes, **May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened... [may you] know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance, ...**

- ✓ *Mention a time when you were, all of a sudden, taken over by a memory which opened itself to making sense? Care to share it (or journal it)?*
- ✓ *How did that breakthrough, or newer understanding, influence subsequent decisions?*

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Luke, authoring the Readings this week calls us twice (in Acts) and in his Gospel to be still and reflect before acting. **You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you...stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**

- ✓ *Luke puts an interesting spin on the coming of the Spirit: **I am sending the promise of my Father.** How do you connect this idea of “the promise of the Father” with “the Holy Spirit?” Suddenly, it is not just that the Spirit is Promised, but that the Spirit IS the Promise. Sit with that a bit.*
- ✓ *As **witnesses**, how are we/you called to carry **the promise (aka Spirit) of the Father?***

SHARING THE FEAST: *The feast can be a meal or some bread (rice-cakes, chapati, pita, tortilla, etc.) and a glass/cup of something to drink. The bread and beverage are passed to one another. Each person serving the next person.*

All: Creator God, Source of All Life, we gather in Our Household (*present to each other as well as at a distance*) to remember and celebrate the Life, Teaching, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, your Son. We long to be gathered again with our parish community to share the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. But since we are separate from the community now, know of our desire to receive you in the Sacrament. Recognize our desire as we break the bread of your Word and bread at our table. (*Share the bread. When finished eating continue.*) Recognize that, as we drink (*water, wine, other*) symbolically, we seek to quench our spiritual thirst by opening ourselves to your presence in one another. (*Share the beverage. When finished drinking continue.*)

PRAYER OF THANKS AND PRIASE

All: We thank you for the leadership of Francisco our pope and for the pastoral ministry of our bishop *N*. **Leader:** Keep them safe and healthy.

All: We ask that inspire the life and ministry of our pastor *N*, and Deacon(s) *N*, (*N*),

Leader: who serve our larger faith community.

All: We recognize you in and thank you for our family, **Leader:** both near and far.

Leader: You teach us the value of community and mutuality **All:** in our friends and neighbors.

Leader: As your life’s witness challenges us to open our eyes to the poor to be leaven in the world,

All: may we learn to understand and respond to the signs of the times and live in the light of faith.

Leader: Being devoted in serving the Gospel, **All:** open our eyes to respond to the needs of all.

Leader: By sharing the grief and pain of others **All:** may we help heal division and strife.

Leader: By sharing the joy and hope of others **All:** may we be the Good News of Trust and Hope.

All: We remember the people who have died in this Pandemic. **Leader** May they be in your Peace.

Leader: For what else do we pray:

Conclude with the Our Father.

Leader: Peace be with you all!

All: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!