

FIRST READING

Why are you standing here looking at the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:8-11

Jesus told his disciples:

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power.
Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem,
in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.”

After Jesus had said this and while they were watching,
he was taken up into a cloud.
They could not see him, but as he went up,
they kept looking up into the sky.

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes
were standing there beside them.
They said, “Why are you men from Galilee
standing here and looking up into the sky?
Jesus has been taken to heaven.
But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8

R. (6a) God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.

All of you nations,
clap your hands and shout
joyful praises to God.
The Lord Most High is fearsome,
the ruler of all the earth.

R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.

God goes up to his throne,
as people shout

and trumpets blast.
Sing praises to God our King.

R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.

God is ruler of all the earth!
Praise God with songs.
God rules the nations
from his sacred throne.

R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.

SECOND READING

God seated Jesus at his right hand in heaven.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-21

Brothers and sisters:

I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ
to give you his Spirit.

The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand
what it means to know God.

My prayer is that light will flood you hearts
and that you will understand the hope that was given to you
when God chose you.

Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours
together with all of God's people.

I want you to know about the great and mighty power
that God has for us followers.

It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death
and let him sit at his right side in heaven.

There Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers.

He rules over all beings in this world
and will rule in the future world as well.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Matthew 28:19a, 20b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all people my gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus' eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee,
where Jesus had told them to meet him.
They saw him and worshiped him,
but some of them doubted.

Jesus came to them and said:
"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!
Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.
Baptize them in the name of the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
and teach them to do everything I have told you.

"I will be with you always,
even until the end of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.



Ascension of the Lord

Opening Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Please help us to spread your message and carry on your work.
In your name we pray
Amen

Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 1:8-11
Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8
Ephesians 1:17-21
Matthew 28:16-20

Reflection:

Once upon a time there was a girl named Amy and a boy named Josh. One day as their mother was leaving the house she told them to make sure their rooms were cleaned by the time she got home. Amy went right to work. She cleaned up all of her dirty clothes off of the floor and put them in the hamper. She made her bed and threw away all of the candy wrappers. Then she started working on her Barbies which were in a huge mess. Eventually she got tired and bored so she decided to take a break and get a snack. On her way to the kitchen she saw that Josh was watching "The Incredibles" movie. He had decided to wait until later to clean. Amy loved that movie so she sat down to watch it. A little while later the babysitter reminded them of their mother's instruction. They continued to watch the movie. They knew that their Mom was always gone for 3 hours when she went out so they thought they could watch the movie for 2 hours and then have an hour to clean.

Suddenly, right at the part of the movie where baby Jack is being taken into the sky, Amy and Josh heard their Mom's car in the drive way. They both ran to their rooms and started throwing things under their beds and into their closets. As they heard Mom's keys in the door, they shoved everything they could into their desk drawers.

After Mom set down her purse she went to look at Amy and Josh's rooms. She looked sad when she saw that they hadn't finished cleaning and had not done good jobs with what they had completed. Amy and Josh were afraid they were going to be in big trouble but instead of yelling, Mom asked them to keep working while she made them all an energy snack of apples, celery and peanut butter. After they ate their snack they tackled the mess in Amy's room and then cleaned Josh's room together.

We, and the disciples, are Amy and Josh. Jesus is the Mother in this story. As He was leaving, He told us to go out and "clean-up" the world by teaching them about Jesus and how He wants us to live. We need to decide what we are going to do now that we have been given the task. Will we be like Josh and ignore it? Will we be like Amy and try very hard at first but then quit? We hope that we will work as hard as we can to bring about God's kingdom and that when Jesus returns He will be pleased with what we have done and will help us with the areas that we didn't do so well.

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Today is Mother's Day as well as the Ascension. Remember that while our Mothers and Fathers are not God, they were given to us by God to show us how much God loves us and cares for us.

Discussion:

Who do you think you are most like, Amy or Josh?

Who do you think the babysitter who reminds them of their task represents?

What does the Mother's actions tell us about God/Jesus?

What are some ways we can "clean-up" the world?

What makes it hard to tell people about Jesus?

How can we handle some of the difficulties in telling others about Jesus?

Activities:

1. Choose 4 children to act out the above story as you read it.

2. "To Do" List

Materials: 3 x 5 index cards or paper, pens, pencils or markers

Preparation: Write or copy "To Do" at the top center of each card/paper and "Love, Jesus" at the bottom right side.

Directions: Put the children in groups of 2. Give them each a card/paper and a writing implement. Ask them to write their partner's name on the top of the paper and then write or draw a way for their partner to tell or show the world about Jesus and then give the card to their partner. Ask the children to share their assignments with the class.

Gospel of Life:

1. This week be aware of how much your Mom cares for you and all she does for you. Tell her "Thanks!"
2. Pick one thing that your family can do together to spread Jesus' message.