

# Getting Ready for Sunday!





## Ascension Sunday

**This is the day on which we  
celebrate Jesus'  
Return to be with God our Father  
in Heaven.**

**The disciples were sad that  
Jesus was leaving them.  
Jesus promised them that He  
would always be with them  
through the Holy Spirit.**

**Ascension had been celebrated on Thursday, forty days after Easter Sunday, until a few years ago.**

**It gave us the opportunity to celebrate this part of the Easter season for forty days, the same amount of time that was spent getting ready for Easter during Lent.**

**We spend forty days getting preparing ourselves to be with Jesus through His suffering, death and resurrection.**

**We spend forty days of joyful celebration after the resurrection in the company of Jesus and His disciples around us in the world today!**

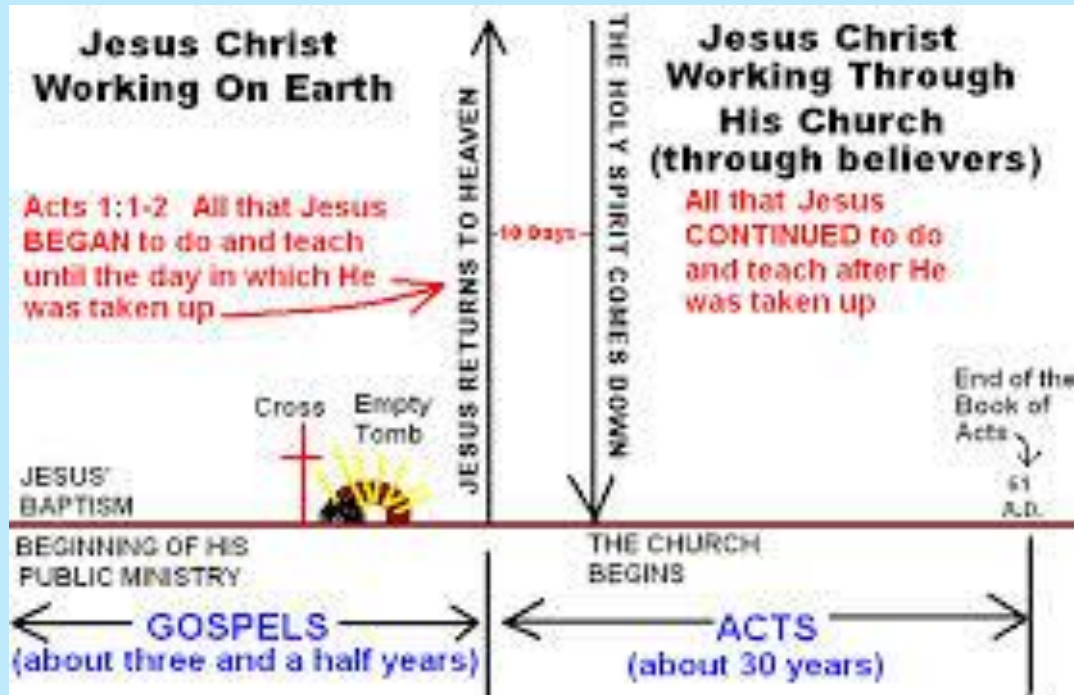
**The following slides give account of both the **First Reading** and the **Gospel** for Ascension Sunday.**

# Acts 1:1-11



***The Promise of the Holy Spirit***

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.



**After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.**



**While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.**



Jesus appears to the disciples by William Hole

***This is what you  
have heard  
from me;***

**They didn't have to go anyplace to  
find God! God was with them in  
that very place!  
We too will find God right where we  
are – however, we may miss  
experiencing God if we don't look  
for signs of God's presence: love,  
peace, community.....**

***...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.***



Jesus appears to the disciples by William Hole



# *The Ascension of Jesus*



**Matthew 28:16-20**

***Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?***

***It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.***



***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***



**God promises to be with us in the Holy Spirit who fills our hearts and minds if we allow!**

**When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.**



**While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said:**

***Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?***



**The disciples needed the angel to remind them to stop looking at where Jesus was, but to look for Him where He lives now: in each and every person!**

***This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.***



**We need to be open to be surprised by God every day and in every place!**

**In the feast of the Ascension the mission to share God's love and good news becomes ours. Jesus now depends on us to bring Him to all whom we meet.**



## Matthew 28:16-20



***The Commissioning of the Disciples***

**Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.**



**And Jesus came and said to them:**



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

**Jesus always acts out  
of the will, authority,  
desire and the  
goodness of the  
Father!**

**We usually know  
what the is the right  
thing to do, but  
unlike Jesus, we  
sometimes forget to  
act out of goodness  
and love.**

***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptising them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey  
everything that I have commanded you.***



**We must do as Jesus taught-  
show God to others through  
all that we do and say.**

And remember,  
I am with you always,  
to the end of the age.  
- Matthew 28:20

**Read Acts 1:1-11 and Matthew 28:16-20**  
**in your family Bible-this is**  
**the First Reading**  
**and the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.**



# Consider



**How are you being the Good News of God's love  
this week?**

# Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to see God's presence in the world around you.

