

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Ascension of the Lord • Year B • May 12, 2024

*All peoples, shout with joy—
the Apostles are sent to us as witnesses to Christ!
All peoples, shout with joy—
the Holy Spirit equips us for Christ's mission!
All peoples, shout with joy—
we have seen the greatness of God's power!
All peoples, shout with joy—
Christ will return in the same way he ascended!*

Sunday Word

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13

Mark 16:15-20

Reflection

Deepen

The First Reading for today's Mass is taken from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles. Recall the first verse of that reading where Luke, the author, refers to his "first book." In other words, Luke considers the Acts of the Apostles to be the sequel to his Gospel account.

Many generations later, here *you* are, situated in the same ongoing love story between God and the world. You and your companions in the faith who have undergone the initiation journey are a small but extremely significant group that continues to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to all you meet.

Meditate

Before he was ordained a priest, Pope Saint John Paul II studied philosophy. He was heavily influenced by a branch of philosophy called phenomenology. As a result, one of his earliest writings is entitled (in English) *The Acting Person*. The title has nothing

to do with "acting" as in a stage performance, but acting-in-the-world as a human being: we make choices, and based on those choices, we take action.

You have made a choice for Christ and have therefore been fully initiated. You have been baptized and confirmed and now share in the Eucharist. As a result, you have been changed. And as a result of your changed personhood—an adopted child of God beloved by him—you influence the world around you to be a better, holier place.

Share

The Scriptures for this Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord impel us to do and be Good News for others. After Jesus ascends to Heaven, the angelic messengers at the end of the First Reading ask the disciples why they are still standing around looking up into the sky. In Mark's account of the Ascension, the Lord commands his disciples to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

In this in-between time after the Ascension, and as we "await" the Lord's Second Coming, we are meant to be busy, to get out there and bring others into relationship with the Lord Jesus and his Church. How are you helping others to know Christ and his Good News?

Do!

Make a simple chart of your weekly routine. Underscore or note on the chart how you are acting on behalf of Christ and his kingdom.

For Reflection . . .

Spend some time praying over the last line of today's Gospel text, the promise that the Lord Jesus would work through his disciples and how Christ's Word would be confirmed by accompanying signs. What signs in your life reveal the closeness of Jesus to you?