

# Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA  
The Ascension of the Lord • Year C • May 29 or June 1, 2025

*God our Father, your Son, Jesus Christ,  
rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven.  
He passed beyond our sight, not abandoning us, but becoming our everlasting hope.  
Christ, the beginning of the Church and its head, beckons us to follow where he has gone.*

## Sunday Word

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53

## Reflection

### Deepen

Throughout the catechumenate, you were invited to engage in works of service and charity. By doing so you were already following in the footsteps of Jesus, giving of yourself to others and modeling your life on that of Christ.

You were learning the Christian way by actively practicing it, mentored throughout by your sponsor, catechists, and the wider community. All of these individuals, with their variety of gifts and personalities, gave witness to Christ that you might come to know him. Continuing to model your own life on Jesus' life by serving others, you too are giving witness to the Risen Lord and his significance for others in the world.

### Meditate

In Luke's account of the Gospel, Jesus meets with his disciples for a final time before he ascends to his heavenly Father and again explains the significance of the Scriptures to them. The Risen Lord also explains to his disciples how the message of conversion, repentance, and forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to the whole world, beginning from that moment on.

Jesus commands the disciples to stay in the city until they are enrobed by the Holy Spirit, the "power from on high" (Luke 24:49). This promise would be fulfilled for them on Pentecost. But in the meantime, the promise also acts as a kind of blessing, a word

of anticipation and joy, filled with the grace of God as it quickens their hearts in faith, hope, and love. Awaiting the fulfillment of that promise, the disciples continually praise God in prayer and proclamation in the Temple and throughout the city.

The Risen Lord ascends to Heaven. The Holy Spirit, sent from the Father and the Son, descends to earth to the disciples, transforming them into bold witnesses who are willing to risk everything—every aspect of their lives and persons—for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

### Share

The word *Mass*, which we use to name the liturgy where the Eucharist is celebrated, comes from the Latin word *Missa*. The Latin term derives from "mission" or "sending." At the end of the Eucharistic liturgy, we are sent forth by the Lord to serve the needs of others. We are missioned to spread the Good News.

Witnessing to the Lord Jesus does not necessarily mean that we use words or that we are preaching about him from a pulpit or lectern. Our "preaching" can be just as powerful (or even more so) when it consists of an act of charity or an act by which we try to raise up to newness of life someone downtrodden, outcast, or hurting.

### For Reflection . . .

Where in the wider community, town, or neighborhood are people in need?

### Act

As you leave Mass this Sunday, reflect on whom you might be sent to witness to this week.

### For Reflection . . .

What will it cost you in terms of time, energy, or other resources to be a witness of faith?