



CONSOLATA SHRINE

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



28th May 2017

FIRST READING

Acts: 1:1-11

"As they were looking on, he was lifted up."

The beginning of the Acts of the Apostles



In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times

or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47:2-3.6-7.8-9. (R.6)

Response.

God has gone up with shouts of joy.

The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

All peoples, clap your hands.

Cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,

the great king over all the earth. **(Response)**

God goes up with shouts of joy.

The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God; sing praise!

Sing praise to our king; sing praise! **(Response)**



Response. **God has gone up with shouts of joy.**
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations.
God sits upon his holy throne. **(Response)**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

"He made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places."

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord



Alleluia

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

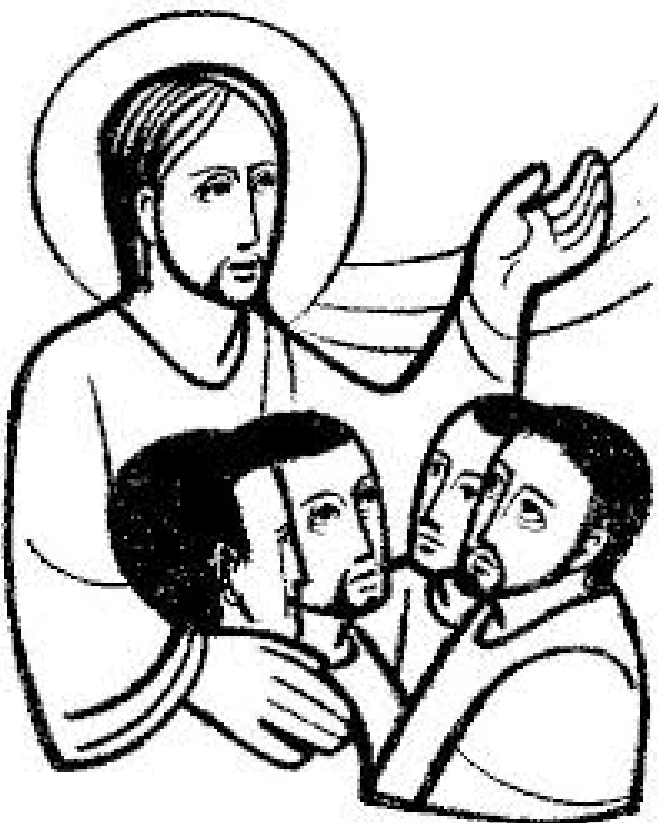
Mathew 28:16-20

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

**The conclusion of the holy Gospel
according to Matthew**

At that time: The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And 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. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord



REFLECTION

KNOWING GOD

Jesus has been taken up into heaven as we begin today's First Reading. His disciples - including the Apostles and Mary - return to the upper room where He celebrated the Last Supper (see Luke 22:12). There, they devote themselves with one accord to prayer, awaiting the Spirit that He promised would come upon them (see Acts 1:8). The unity of the early Church at Jerusalem is a sign of the oneness that Christ prays for in today's Gospel. The Church is to be a communion on earth that mirrors the glorious union of Father, Son and Spirit in the Trinity. Jesus has proclaimed God's name to His brethren (see Hebrews 2:12; Psalm 22:23). The prophets had foretold this revelation - a new covenant by which all flesh would have knowledge of the Lord (see Jeremiah 31:33-34; Habakkuk 2:14). By the new covenant made in His blood and remembered in every Eucharist, we know God as our Father. This is the eternal life Jesus promises. And this is the light and salvation we sing of in today's Psalm. As God made light to shine out of darkness when the world began, He has enlightened us in Baptism, making us new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), giving us knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (see Hebrews 10:32; 2 Corinthians 4:6). Our new life is a gift of "the Spirit of glory," we hear in today's Epistle (see John 7:38-39). Made one in His name, we are given a new name - "Christians" - a name used only here and in two other places in the Bible (see Acts 11:16; 26:28). We are to glorify God, though we will be insulted and suffer because of this name. But as we share in His sufferings, we know we will overcome (see Revelation 3:12) and rejoice when His glory is once more revealed. And we will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today the Homeless of Nairobi are having a shoe shining activity outside the church to support them with their needs. Kindly support them.
2. Today also all Small Christian Communities and those who wish to join are invited to a formation talk after 9am Mass in the Parish Hall.
3. We continue with the pilgrimage with the Icon of Our Lady Consolata to the homes from Mondays to Fridays. It is a special occasion to have our Mother visiting our families, in this Year of the Family. Everyday Mass and blessing of the house will take place in the home where the Icon will be. Please register in the Parish Office during the week.
4. The Parish through Charismatic group have organised the Novena of Pentecost which began on Friday 26th of May to 3rd of June 2017. This marks the jubilee year of Catholic Charismatic Group since it started. The program starts from 5pm and continues with teachings and reflections after 5:30 Mass. On Saturday there is a special program from 10am to 5pm. All are welcome.
5. Saturday 3rd June 2017, The Marathon Rosary will be prayed in the prayer garden from 10.am to 5pm. All are welcome.
6. Wednesday 31st May is the Feast of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is a Candle Lit procession and Rosary after 5.30pm mass.
7. On Thursday 1st June is PUBLIC HOLIDAY. Masses will be as follows (7am, 9am and 5.30pm).

8. On Friday 2nd, is the first Friday of the Month. Night Vigil will start at 9.00pm and end up with a Holy Mass at 5.00am. All are welcome.
9. Next Sunday there will be the second collection of St. Vincent de Paul for the needy of our Parish.
10. Next Sunday the Eucharistic Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Eucharist after 12 o'clock Mass. All are welcome.
11. Construction of the Allamano Centre to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking has begun. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project.
12. Last week, 4 parishioners got the 4 prizes. Two smartphones and two Cars (Renault Kwid). New prizes are won every week! Continue supporting the project and please pass the message to your friends so to participate into the raffle for a noble cause. The more you participate the more chances to win! Remember the code is *369*2# or M-pesa Pay Bill 804877 and Account WIN. The more you donate, the more chances of winning!

PRAYER FOR THE ALLAMANO CENTRE

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121:1)

All-powerful and all-merciful father, you have created all things through your Son and have made him the unshakable foundation of your kingdom. Through the gift of your eternal wisdom, grant that the undertaking we begin today for your glory and the benefit of the Parish may progress day by day to its successful completion. May the Allamano Centre be the expression of our faith and of our missionary zeal to reach more people and in a better way. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for Us!

DAILY READING

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-7; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11.20-21; Jn 17:1-11

Wednesday: Zeph 3:14-18 (or Rom 12:9-16); Ps 12:2-6; Lk 1:39-56

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2. 5.7-11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13-21; Ps 103:1-2. 11-12. 19-20; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20. 30-31; Ps 11:4. 5.7; Jn 21:20-25

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili**

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon and 5.30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am and 1.15 pm, 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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