

Reflection: The Kingdom Remains by Scott Hahn, Ph.D

Today's First Reading begins by giving us a time-frame—the events take place during the days between Christ's ascension and Pentecost. We're at the same point in our liturgical year. On Thursday we celebrated His being taken up in glory, and next Sunday we will celebrate His sending of the Spirit upon the Church. Jesus' prayer in the Gospel today also captures the mood of departure and the anticipation. He is telling us today how it will be when He is no longer in the world. By His ascension, the Lord has established His throne in heaven, as we sing in today's Psalm. His kingdom is His Church, which continues His mission on earth. Jesus fashioned His kingdom as a new Jerusalem, and a new house of David. He entrusted this kingdom to His twelve apostles, who were to preside at the Eucharistic table, and to rule with Him over the restored twelve tribes of Israel. The twelve apostles symbolize the twelve tribes and hence the fulfillment of God's plan for Israel. That's why it is crucial to replace Judas—so that the Church in its fullness receives the Spirit at Pentecost. Peter's leadership of the apostles is another key element of the Church as it is depicted today. Notice that Peter is unquestionably in control, interpreting the Scriptures, deciding a course of action, even defining the nature of the apostolic ministry. No one has ever seen God, as we hear in today's Epistle. Yet, through the Church founded on His apostles, the witnesses to the resurrection, the world will come to know and believe in God's love, that He sent His Son to be our savior. Through the Church, Jesus' pledge still comes to us—that if we love, God will remain with us in our trials and protects us from the evil one. By His word of truth He will help us grow in holiness, the perfection of love.



Eucharistic Adorers Meeting on Saturday 26th, at 9.30am to 1pm in the Parish

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Act 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113; Jn 15:9-17
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68; Jn 17:1-11
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68; Jn 17:11-19
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16; Jn 17:20-26
Friday: Acts 25:13-21; Ps 103; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11; Jn 21:20-25

Schedules for Masses:

Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili
9.00 am; 10.30 am; 12.00 noon & 5:30 pm
English
Saturday: English 7.00 a.m; 9.00 am & 5.30 pm
Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am & 1.15 am,
5.30 pm Kiswahili

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CONSOLATA SHRINE
ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR B
13th May 2018



FIRST READING

“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 season 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.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9 (R.6)

R. 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. **R**

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! **R**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations.
God sits upon his holy throne. **R**



SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-13

“To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Ephesians



Brethren: I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us

all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.



Alleluia, Alleluia

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



GOSPEL

Mark 16:15-20

“He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: [Jesus, appearing to the Eleven,] said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the sign that attend it. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today the Accountants and Finance professionals are meeting after 9am mass in the Tent behind the Nursery School.
2. Consolata Senior Youth Group is having a Cake Sale at the gazebo. Proceeds from the sale will go towards funding their activities. In addition, the Senior Youth Celebrate and recognize all mothers today, and wishes them a Happy Mother's Day.
3. Today the universal church celebrates the 101 years of apparition of Our Lady in Fatima. We shall have a Candlelit Rosary procession after 5.30pm Mass.
4. Registration for the Pilgrimage to Namugongo, the Ugandan Martyrs Shrine is ongoing. Please visit the desk at the gazebo or parish office. The Deadline for registration is Tuesday 15th.
5. Teacher/Lecturers professional are meeting today at 11.45am in the meeting room before tent. They will also have a holy mass on Tuesday 15th at 4pm in the Parish Hall.
6. The Novena of Pentecost has already begun. Monday 14th to Thursday 17th, we will have special sessions which will be facilitated by the Vincentian Fathers from 2pm – 8pm. Come and be renewed with the Holy Spirit.
7. We continue 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. Everyday Mass and blessing of the house will take place in the home where the Icon will be. If you would wish the Icon to visit your home, please register in the Parish Office during the week.
8. A Novena of 9 Saturdays in preparation to the Feast of Our Lady Consolata is ongoing at the evening mass, followed by the rosary and a special reflection. We welcome you for the 5th day of novena next Saturday. In this occasion, we will pray for all the families.
9. The Allamano Centre keeps growing. We keep appealing for your prayers and contributions towards the completion of this project. Visit the tables at the gazebo for your contributions and pledges. God bless you!

Day 3: THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

PRAYER

Come, O blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that we may perceive the will of the Father. Show us the nothingness of earthly things, that we may realize their vanity and use them only for your glory and for our own salvation, looking ever beyond them to you and your eternal rewards. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen