

Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3,6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23 or
Heb 9:24-28;10:19-23
Luke 24:46-53

Monday May 30

Acts 19:1-8
Ps 68:2-7ab(33a)
John 16:29-33

Tuesday May 31

The Visitation of Mary

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
or Romans 12:9-16
Isaiah 12:2-6
Luke 1:39-56

Wednesday June 1

St. Justin

Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30,33-36ab
John 17:11b-19

Thursday June 2

Acts 22:30;23:6-11
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11
John 17:20-26

Friday June 3

St. Charles Lwanga & co.

Acts 25:13b-21
Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20
John 21:15-19

Saturday June 4

Acts 28:16-20,30-31
Ps 11:4,5,7
John 21:20-25

Why did Jesus ascend to heaven? Imagine how readily people would have converted if he had resumed his public ministry after his resurrection.

However, God's salvation plan for the world was much bigger than that. While Jesus walked the earth, he was but one man. Afterward, by giving himself in the Eucharist to his disciples, he became every human who takes this Sacrament seriously. When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we unite ourselves to his mission. In every eucharistic liturgy, we are "co-missioned" (i.e., placed into mission with Jesus) to continue the ministry he began.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he commissioned every disciple – including you – for this task. And it is renewed during every Mass.

It's a difficult mission. Humanly we are quite inadequate, so Jesus gave us his

Holy Spirit. By uniting our spirit to his Spirit and then relying on God in every situation, adequacy is not the question. It's willingness. Are we willing to put time, effort and spiritual growth into being Christ's hands and voice for the world?

Because Jesus ascended to heaven, he has no hands but our hands, and he has no voice but our voice.



Are you unhappy about the evils that exist in this world? God has great plans to bring his kingdom into these situations. Are you concerned about the abuses you see? Immorality on television? Injustices in your workplace? Divisions in your parish or hurtful behavior in your leaders? Jesus is far more disturbed by these evils than you are. However, he uses your hands, and he uses your voice.

Ever since Jesus ascended into heaven and gave his Holy Spirit to us, God ministers to the world through us: in our homes, in our parishes and work-places and play-places.

Lord Jesus, fill me with the presence of Your Holy Spirit and with the gifts You want me to use. Show me when and how to use these charisms. And help me to overcome my pride and fears and any other sins that are holding me back from the works that You are calling me to do. I want to be Your hands, Your feet, and Your voice, Lord Jesus. Amen!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What thresholds or new beginnings are you facing?
2. How are these opportunities for the continuation of the ministry of Jesus?
3. In what ways are you doing the works of Jesus?
4. Which parish ministries could use your gifts and talents?
5. How do you rely on the Holy Spirit to get it done?