

May 21, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season Ms. Albano

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear God, I acknowledge the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation for being the ongoing stewards of this traditional territory.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”



Happy Ascension of our Lord! Today is our school's feast day. If we were in school, we would gather for mass and have a celebration to honour the day when the Lord physically left this earth. As the scripture in Acts of the Apostle's show, Christ tells his followers to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. To have the courage and knowledge that He is with you to protect and guide you. Why? This feast also reminds us that God does not abandon us to carry on the mission of proclaiming the Gospel, he will send the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom to know God in scripture, study, and in each other. In short, we are preparing for the third high holy day celebrated in the Church, and that is Pentecost. The feast where we the people of God proclaim and live as disciples of Christ.

What does that mean? As we hear in the Gospel reading today, Christ commissions the eleven, and us today. He says, *“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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28: 16-20)

To the keen ear, you may recognize the back half of the scripture as words of Jesus said at the Ascension. Not entirely accurate, since in Scriptures we find the reference to the Ascension account in Acts of the Apostles. However, St. Matthew echoes the same message. As baptized Christians, we have the responsibility to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to every person we meet. However, as history shows, our proclamation should not be through violence or fear tactics, but in the way the Apostles did. Rooted in the truth of Christ's life, death and resurrection, in prayer and how we serve one another. A tricky balance, as our human frailty and pride impede others from hearing this message and trusting it. Yet, we must continue to share the message of the Gospel in prayer and deed as the Sacrament of Baptism instills in us the knowledge and responsibility to share the message of Christ to others.

Today, I pray that all of us will come to know Christ in God's time. May those baptized remember your responsibility to the faith in prayer and service. May you remember that as Christ ascended into heaven, he promised the Holy Spirit who would help and guide you to preach to the ends of the earth. With the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit may we learn and believe in the words of Jesus who commissioned all of us to, "Remember I am with you always till the end of days." Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.