

## **Feast of Ascension Sunday May 24,2020**

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46(47):2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Matt 28:16-20

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses...”

Forty days after Jesus’ resurrection, we commemorate his Ascension into Heaven, having seen his work of regathering and reconciliation amongst his disciples after his Resurrection. As he left them, he made special demands of them. First, his presence amongst them was guaranteed through the Holy Spirit. Second, they must focus on their mission as witnesses, proclaiming the good news to all creation and making disciples of all nations. They must guard against idleness and frivolous worries about end times and be in a constant state of preparedness and witness.

The promise of the Holy Spirit undergirds the continuity of Jesus’ saving presence amongst them. The guards changed but God’s abiding presence remained constant. Hence, Jesus assured his disciples in his final visit to them in Matthew’s gospel: “I am with you always; yes, until the end of time.” The second reading presents Jesus, taking his place at God’s right hand, with glory and power, and yet, present with his church, his body. So, we are pilgrim people, called to follow Christ in faith, hope and love until we are led into glory with him.

Christ, ascended into heaven, have mercy on us. Amen.

--Fr. Maurice