



01 June 2025

The Ascension of the Lord & Communication Sunday



Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a moment of glory and mission. Christ ascends to the Father not to abandon us, but to draw all humanity to Himself and to empower us, through the Holy Spirit, to continue His mission.

Today is also World Communications Sunday, a day when the Church invites us to reflect on the responsibility, we each share in communicating truth, building unity, and proclaiming the Gospel — whether in person, in print, or through digital media. As we begin this celebration, let us open our hearts to Christ who is exalted in glory and remains with us, sending us forth as His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Readings: **First Reading:** Acts 1:1–11
 Responsorial Psalm: Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
 Second Reading: Eph 1:17–23 (or Heb 9:24–28; 10:19–23)
 Gospel: Mk 16:15–20

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and reflect on our mission to communicate the Good News, let us turn to God our Father with hearts uplifted in hope and trust saying, **Loving Father, hear our prayer**

For the Church: That she may continue Christ's mission of preaching the Gospel to the ends of the earth, especially through modern means of communication. **Let us pray to the Lord:**

For all communicators — journalists, writers, broadcasters, and digital media creators — that they may be guided by the Spirit of truth and justice. **Let us pray to the Lord:**

For nations torn by division and misinformation: That truth, dialogue, and peace may overcome hatred and conflict. **Let us pray to the Lord:**

For those who feel abandoned or unheard: That through the love of the Christian community, they may encounter the presence of the risen and ascended Christ. **Let us pray to the Lord:**

For our parish community: That we may live as faithful witnesses of the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, and on social media. **Let us pray to the Lord:**

For our departed loved ones, that they may share in the glory of Christ who reigns in heaven. **Let us pray to the Lord:**

Celebrant: God our Father, Your Son now reigns with You in glory. Hear our prayers and send Your Spirit to strengthen us as we continue His mission on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily Tips on the theme: "Ascended Yet Present: Our Mission in the Digital Age"

1. Explain the mystery of the Ascension:

- Jesus does not "leave" us, but ascends to a new way of being present — through the Holy Spirit and in the Church.
- He entrusts His mission to the disciples, and through them, to us.

2. Tie in the theme of mission:

- The Great Commission ("Go into all the world...") is not optional — it's the Church's core identity.
- All baptized are called to be witnesses.

3. Highlight World Communications Sunday:

- Reflect on how communication is a gift that must be used responsibly.
- We are called to communicate not just information but *communion* — building relationships and spreading truth.

4. Apply it concretely:

- In a world filled with digital noise, how do we proclaim Christ with integrity?
- Encourage positive engagement on social media, promoting kindness, truth, and the dignity of others.

5. Personal challenge:

- Ask: "How am I witnessing to Christ in the spaces I inhabit — online and offline?"
- End with hope: The same Christ who ascended empowers us through the Spirit to live as His presence in the world.

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