



## The Ascension of the Lord

### Why did Jesus ascend to heaven?

Read Luke 24:46-53

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, much greater. 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 "commissioned" – i.e., placed into mission with Jesus – to continue the ministry that he began.

As we see in the Gospel reading for the Solemnity of the Ascension, before he ascended to heaven, Jesus commissioned every disciple – including you and me today – 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 and effort and spiritual growth into being Christ's hands and feet 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 has no hands but your hands, and he has no voice but your voice.

Ever since Jesus ascended into heaven and sent his Holy Spirit to earth, God has chosen to minister to the world through us, first in our homes, then extending his love into 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.

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!