



Traditional Latin Mass Liturgy

# SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

12th May, 2024

# SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, who didst this day ascend in triumph above all the heavens! leave us not orphans, but send upon us the Spirit of truth, promised by the Father, alleluia.

In the Middle Ages, the Sunday within the Octave of the Ascension, was called "The Sunday of Roses," because it was the custom to strew the pavement of the Churches with roses, as an homage to Christ who ascended to heaven when earth was in the season of flowers. How well the Christians of those times appreciated the harmony that God has set between the world of grace and nature! The Feast of the Ascension, when considered in its chief characteristic, is one of gladness and jubilation, and

Spring's loveliest days are made for its celebration. Our forefathers had the spirit of the Church; they forgot, for a moment, the sadness of poor earth at losing her Emmanuel, and they remembered how he said to his Apostles: *If ye loved me, ye would be glad, because I go to my Father!* Let us do in like manner; let us offer to Jesus the Roses wherewith he has beautified our earth: their beauty and fragrance should make us think of him who made them, of Him who calls himself of *The Flower of the field* and the *Lily of the valleys*. He loved to be called "Jesus of Nazareth;" for *Nazareth* means a *Flower*: and the symbol would tell us what a charm and sweetness there is in Him we serve and love as our God

## HOLY MASS

*The Introit, which is taken from the Book of Psalms, expresses the longings of the Church to behold her Spouse, who has fled far from her. The faithful soul is possessed with the same desire; she unites in the prayer of our Holy Mother, and says to Jesus: "Oh! hearken to the wish of my heart, and show me Thy Divine Face!"*

**INTROIT:** Hear, O Lord, my voice, with which I have cried out to thee, alleluia. My heart hath said to thee: I have sought thy face! I will seek thy face, O Lord: turn not thy face from me. Alleluia, alleluia. Ps. The Lord is my light, and my salvation: whom shall I fear?  $\Psi$ . Glory, &c. Hear, &c.

*The Church, in the Collect, teaches us to ask of God that good will which will render us worthy of seeing our Jesus, by its making us zealous in the service of His Divine Majesty.*

**COLLECT:** O Almighty and eternal God, inspire thy servants with true devotion, and grant that we may serve thy divine Majesty with sincere hearts. Through, &c.

**LESSON OF THE EPISTLE OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE** (1 Peter IV. 7-11.): Dearly beloved: Be prudent, and watch in prayers. But before all things have a constant mutual charity among yourselves: for charity covereth a multitude of sins. Using hospitality one towards another, without murmuring, As every man hath received grace, ministering the same one to another: as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak, as the words of God. If any man minister, let him do it, as of the power, which God administereth: that in all things God may be honoured through Jesus Christ: to whom is glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Prince of the Apostles—who presided over the holy assembly that awaited, in the Cenacle, the descent of the Divine Spirit—here addresses us who are in expectation of the same great Gift, and recommends us to practice fraternal charity. This virtue, says he, covereth a multitude of sins: could we make any better preparation for receiving the Holy Ghost? This Paraclete is coming that he may unite all men into one family; let us, then, put an end to all our dissensions, and prove ourselves to be members of the Brotherhood established by the preaching of the Gospel. During these days of our preparing to receive the promised Comforter, the Apostle bids us be prudent and watch in prayers. Let us follow his instruction; we must show our prudence by excluding everything that might be an obstacle to the Holy Ghost's*

*entering our hearts; and as to prayer, it is the means which will open our hearts to him, that he may make them his own forever.*

**ALLELUIA ALLELUIA:**  $\Psi$ . The Lord hath reigned over all nations: God sitteth upon his holy throne. Alleluia.  $\Psi$ . I will not leave you orphans: I go, and I come to you, and your heart shall rejoice..

**SEQUEL OF THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN** (John XV. 26-27., to XVI. 1-4.) At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: when the Paraclete cometh, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceedeth from the Father, he shall give testimony of me. And you shall give testimony, because you are with me from the beginning. These things have I spoken to you, that you may not be scandalized. They will put you out of the synagogues: yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doth a service to God. And these things will they do to you; because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things I have told you, that when the hour shall come, you may remember that I told you of them.

**OFFERTORY ANTIPHON:** God ascended in triumph, and the Lord at the sound of the trumpet, alleluia.

**SECRET:** May these unspotted sacrifices purify us, O Lord, and invigorate our souls with heavenly grace. Through, &c.

**PREFACE OF ASCENSION:** It is truly meet and just, right and available to salvation, that we should always and in all places give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, through Christ our Lord; who after his Resurrection appeared openly to all his Disciples, and, in their presence ascended into heaven, to make us partakers of his divine nature. And therefore, with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominations, and with all the heavenly host, we sing a hymn to thy glory, saying unceasingly: Holy, holy, holy...

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Father, when I was with them, I kept those whom thou gavest me, alleluia: now I return to thee: I do not pray that thou mayest taken them out of this world, but that thou wouldst keep them from evil. Alleluia, alleluia.

**POST-COMMUNION:** Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that we may be always thankful for the sacred gifts, with which we have been filled. Through, &c.

## HOMILY

***In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. My dear Brethren***

*Jesus has ascended into heaven. His Divinity had never been absent; but by the Ascension, His Humanity was also enthroned there, and crowned with the brightest diadem of glory. This is another phase of the Mystery we are now solemnizing. Besides a triumph, the Ascension gave to the sacred Humanity a place on the very throne of the Eternal Word, to whom it was united in unity of Person. From this throne, it is to receive the adoration of men and Angels. At the name of Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God—of Jesus, who is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty, every knee shall bend, in heaven, on earth and in hell.*

*But the Judgeship of our Lord Jesus Christ is not to be confined to this silent exercise of his sovereign power. The Angels, who appeared to the Apostles, after his Ascension, told us that He is to come again upon the earth; that He is to descend through the clouds, as He ascended; and that then shall be the Last Judgment, at which the whole human race is to be present. Throned on a cloud and surrounded by the Angelic host, the Son of Man will show Himself to mankind, and this time, with all Majesty. Men shall see him whom they pierced; the imprints of those Wounds, which will give additional beauty to His sacred Body, will be an object of terror to the wicked, while to the good they will be a source of unspeakable consolation. The Shepherd, seated on his ethereal throne, will separate the goats from the sheep; His voice, after so many ages of silence, will make itself once more heard upon this earth; He will speak to impenitent sinners, condemning them to eternal torments; he will speak to the just, calling them to approach Him, and ascend, body and soul, into the region of everlasting bliss.*

*Meanwhile He exercises over all nations the royal power, which He received, as Man, on the Day of His Ascension. He redeemed us all by his Blood; we are therefore his people, and He is our King. He is, and he calls himself, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The kings of the earth reign not either by their own prowess, or by the boasted social compact; they lawfully reign by Christ alone. Peoples and nations are not their own masters; they*

*belong to Christ and are His subjects. His law requires no sanction from man; it is above all human laws, and should be their guide and controller. Why have the nations raged, and the people devised vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the princes met together, against the Lord and against his Christ. How vain all these efforts! for, as the Apostles says, He must reign, until He hath put all His enemies under his feet, that is, until his second coming, when the pride of man and Satan's power shall both be at an end.*

*Thus, then, the Son of Man, crowned at his Ascension, must reign over the world to the end of time. But it will be objected: "How can He be said to reign in these our times, when Kings and Emperors and Presidents acknowledge that their authority comes from the people; and when the people themselves, carried away with the ideas of self-government and liberty and independence, have lost all idea of Authority?" And yet, He reigns; He reigns in His justice, since men refused to be guided by His clemency. They expunged his law from their statutes; they gave the rights of citizenship to error and blasphemy: then did He deliver them up, both people and rulers, to their own follows and lies. Authority and power are become ephemeral: and as they scorn to receive the consecration of the Church, the hand that holds them today may be empty tomorrow. Then anarchy, then a new Ruler, and then a fresh Revolution. This will be the future, as it is the present, history of Nations, until they once more acknowledge Jesus as their King, and resume the Constitution of the Ages of Faith: "It is Christ that conquers! it is Christ that reigns! it is Christ that commands! May Christ preserve his people from all evil!"*

*On this thy Coronation Day, receive our devoted homage, O Jesus, our King, our Lord, our Judge! By our sins, we were the cause of Thy humiliations and sufferings; so much the more fervently, then, do we unite with the acclamations made to Thee by the Angels when the royal diadem was placed on Thy head by the Eternal Father. As yet, we but faintly see Thy grandeur; but the Holy Spirit, whom thou art about to send upon us, will teach us more and more of Thy Sovereign power, for we are, and wish to be eternally, Thy humble and faithful subjects!*

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