**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**ACENSION SUNDAY - YEAR C**

**Introduction.**

Good morning / evening we welcome our parishioners to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

Today we celebrate Ascension Sunday, that glorious event when the Risen Christ goes up to heaven to take his place at the right hand of the Father. In his exaltation, Christ receives sovereign authority and power over creation and all history. But the Ascension is also a saving event for us. “It is much better for you that I go… If I go, I will send the Paraclete to you” (Jn 16:7). The Risen Christ continues to work with us amid our current situations in life.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

**The Ascension of the Lord - Year C**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### FIRST READING   (Acts 1:1-11)

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is,’ he had said, ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’

Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6)

***(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets***

 ***for the Lord.***

#### 1. All peoples, clap your hands,

#### cry to God with shouts of joy!

#### For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,

#### great king over all the earth.

#### 2. God goes up with shouts of joy;

#### the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

#### Sing praise for God, sing praise,

#### sing praise to our king, sing praise.

#### 3. God is king of all the earth.

#### Sing praise with all your skill.

#### God is king over the nations;

#### God reigns on his holy throne.

#### SECOND READING  (Eph 1:17-23)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers.

This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Lk 24:46-53)

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

#### Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

#### ‘And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.’ Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — Entering heaven, Christ appears before God on our behalf. We, therefore, pray to the Father almighty with a sincere heart and in absolute trust.

**Reader:** — That the People of God may set their eyes to the things of heaven and follow the Lord Jesus in mind and heart,

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Give strength to the Church and her leaders: may your people hold on to your teachings and renew themselves through a change of heart and a constant pursuit of charity.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Give strength to the sick, the lonely, the destitute, and those who suffer in any way: make them well in soul and body and restore them to their families and the Church.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Give peace and progress to our nation: may we desire to ensure justice for our brothers and sisters by sharing the good things you give us. We pray.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular, those mention in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We pray.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for Easter:

**All:** God of power and might, by your holy will you raised Jesus from the dead so that we might share his life eternally. As we rejoice and give you thanks for your great goodness and mercy, help us to reach out to those who do not yet believe in the truth of the gospel. Fill us with your compassion so that we may serve the weak and needy for love of you.

Strengthen the faith of our families so that we may grow together in love. May your joy grow in us day by day.

**Priest:** God our Father, as we rejoice in the Ascension of your Son, fill us with hope in this life. May we be your faithful witnesses now until the time we join you in heaven, forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

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