

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Amid shouts of joy, God ascends to his throne: with these words from Responsorial Psalm 47, we join in the joy of the entire Church to joyfully celebrate the solemn feast of the Ascension of the Lord.

Forty days after we celebrate the day of the Resurrection, our Mother the Church invites us to contemplate one of the mysteries of our faith, an affirmation contained in our Creed.

Jesus ascends to heaven to once again take his rightful place as the Son of God, thus elevating our human nature and showing us the path we must follow to attain true life.

The goal of every Christian is to return to the Father's house and there participate in his glorious divine life. Jesus returns to the Father's house to prepare a place for us so that we may share with him that joy that has no end.

In addition to this feast showing us the divinity of Jesus Christ, it also teaches us the essential mission of the Christian: to proclaim Christ.

In our Christian life, we face two temptations. One is to worry and occupy ourselves only with earthly things, that is, to work to satisfy our needs, but forgetting that we are pilgrims on this earth; we are not destined to remain here.

A second temptation is to want to remain, looking up to heaven, limiting our Christian life to moments of prayer, but without a true social commitment that transforms the lives of others and also our own lives.

The Christian path must be one of profound imitation of Christ, who spent his life doing good. We, according to Scripture, are witnesses of all this

and are therefore invited to follow him in proclaiming it and thus participate in the mission of the entire Church.

Today, we are accustomed to living our Christian lives without true commitment, limiting ourselves to occasionally participating in Sunday Mass. But when we leave there, we forget what our essence is, as children of God, how we are to share Christ, how we are to proclaim him.

The Gospel of Saint Luke reminds us what true Christian life should be, once we have participated in the Eucharist, to return to the Jerusalem of our daily lives, filled with joy, with the desire to share what Christ has accomplished in our lives; in short, may our lives be a constant praise to God our Father.

Therefore, it is time for us, as a Church, to work together and proclaim that the same love that caused Christ to assume our human nature is the same love by which he ascended to heaven.

May our life of faith always be an experience of the love of God, who became man, gave himself for our salvation, and now invites us to follow him to share in eternal joy. Until that moment arrives, let us walk with our feet firmly on the earth, but our eyes fixed on heaven. Amen.