

## FEAST OF THE ASCENSION TO HEAVEN

### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, your promise in favor of all peoples is revealed through the mystery of the Ascension. Grant that those who believe may bear witness to Her who, having returned to Heaven, permits its complete fulfillment in our time.

### First Reading (Sermon of Saint Leo the Great)

READER: A reading taken from the spiritual heritage of humanity.

ALL: ***From all time, Heaven has prepared the coming of the Kingdom.***

READER: Today, a passage from a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, a pope from the 5th century and a doctor of the Church. It is written:

Just as at the Easter commemoration, the Lord's Resurrection was the cause of our rejoicing, so too the subject of our present gladness is His Ascension, as we commemorate and duly venerate the day on which the nature of our humanity, in Christ, was raised above all the host of heaven, over all the ranks of angels, beyond the height of all powers, to sit with God the Father.

On such a providential order of events we are founded and built up. In fact, God's grace becomes more wondrous, when, notwithstanding the removal from men's sight of what was rightly felt to command their awe, faith did not fail, hope did not waver, love did not grow cold....

On the contrary, the blessed Apostles made such progress after the Lord's Ascension that everything which had previously filled them with fear was turned into joy.... In fact, it was when He betook Himself back to the glory of the Father, that Jesus began, in an ineffable manner, to be nearer in respect to His divinity, after having become farther away in respect to His manhood.

READER: This was a passage from a sermon by Saint Leo the Great.

### Psalm R./ ***God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

### Second Reading (Lk 24:46-53)

ACCLAMATION: ***Alleluia, alleluia.*** Jesus ascended into Heaven and Marie-Paule saw that she was ascending to it like Him. ***Alleluia.***

PRIEST: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The risen Jesus, appearing to his disciples, said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on-high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed

them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

### Third Reading (Life of Love, vol. VIII, pp. 24-25)

ACCLAMATION: ***From the Lord to the Lady, one single Love, one single Mystery: one single Kingdom to lead all His Creation to God.***

MOTHER: A proclamation of the works of the Lady.

ALL: ***The Lady's word is a word of truth.***

MOTHER: In *Life of Love*, Marie-Paule wrote:

On the morning of June 30, 1971, I am transported, in a dream, to my home town, Lac-Etchemin. It is daytime and yet it is very dark, for the sun is giving little light. People are frightened, unstrung, because unspeakable events are taking place in the world: disasters, cataclysms.

I am outside, very close to my mother's house.... Suddenly, I become aware that I am rising, and I "see" that I am clad in a long white dress. I rise slowly...

As I ascend, I experience an extraordinary sense of well-being. The more profoundly this pleasant sensation penetrates me, the more powerful do I become to ascend. Always mounting, I gaze upon the devastated earth, and I see people, their heads raised towards the dark sky, staring at the white form that mounts, some having fallen on their backs, others with their arms raised in a gesture of supplication until they no longer see anything.

And I think of our Lord and say to myself: "I am ascending in the same manner He ascended." What intoxicating sweetness! After a long ascent, I arrive in another world; it is the first stage or first dwelling of this new place for me.

MOTHER: Thus said the Lady.

ALL: ***May she be blessed forever.***

### Prayer over the Offerings

God as Father with the Immaculate as Mother, deign to accept the gifts we offer you through the merits of the Son and the Daughter. In your infinite goodness, attract to Heaven all the souls that serve you in joy and love.

### Communion Antiphon

"I am with you always," said the Lord Jesus, "until the end of the world." Alleluia.

### Prayer after Communion

Jesus Christ and Paul-Marie, through this Communion, fill with your peace all the hearts turned to Heaven as they live in the hope of joining you some day. May the hour finally come when the Spirit of Holiness and Truth will clothe with power from On-High all the witnesses of the Kingdom.

(Biblical source: USCCB)