

14.5.70
27.5.71
26.5.77

GLA: Laudario 21 - Ascension

That was part of an old Italian folk-hymn about the Ascension of our Lord, which ^{I've used during these Midday Prayers a couple of times} I thought wd. make a pleasant change from the Alleluia I've been using to introduce these Midday Prayers during Paschaltide. With Pentecost on Sund. next, this is our last Easter season few minutes together for prayer and reflection. At the weekend, we come to the end of the 7-week long 'Day of the Lord' (as some of the early Fathers of the Church called Eastertide) in which, in joy, we thank God for all the graces and blessings He's given us in Christ and through His Passion for us. Pentecost is the 2nd, and closing climax of Eastertide, in the celebration of the outpouring on the Apostles of the Holy Spirit Christ promised them after His own return to His Father. There is now no special octave week to follow Pentecost, for that custom was really a confusion and distracting duplication. For Pentecost is itself the octave of Easter, the fullness and completion of it after 50 days' celebration. For us today, a 50-day period is I suppose too long to be grasped as a whole - the pace and constant change of modern life is too fast and we quickly tire of things. ~~Now~~ Now are we so impressed by the symbolism of numbers as the ancient world was - 50 for them, (7 times 7, plus one), carried a rich meaning of fullness and completion, associated with the work of God. And the very word Pentecost is derived from 50; the term was used for the whole of what we now call Eastertide, the Day of Days, in the words of some Fathers. They looked on it as all one continuous celebration of all that Christ achieved for us, the greatest gift of God's goodness, for which we thank Him

in prayer and song and praise, especially in the Eucharist, at Mass. On Sunday, the first of the scripture readings ---

→ MP 99

RHX
ARGO(E)124

But, not to anticipate Pentecost in our prayer today. Listen now to ^{part of} an Ascension-time motet, by Victoria: *Ascendens Christus in Altum*.

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MP 99

For prayer in song today, a motet "Jubilate Deo" by Bouzignac (R22)

(1977) for prayer in music today, part of a Spanish song to the Ascension of Christ: QQ (5 cues)

ARCH. 0.84