

27.5.65
7.6.73 ✓

Begin MP 191

In hac Dies.

"This day was read by the Lord: we rejoice & are glad, Alleluia"

Following the instructions of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the day of his last appearance to them and his Ascension to His Father's right hand, the Apostles went back to the city of Jerusalem to wait there for the coming of the promised Spirit. They waited in prayer together, in their upper room, where all the small band of Jesus' friends were gathered, with His mother. This was the first Novena ever read by the Church, this 9 days of earnest prayer. This week we are reliving in our time and place those days of waiting before we celebrate the completion of Christ's paschal mystery, His sending of the Holy Spirit to us, upon us at Pentecost. So, in a special way, this week should be for all Christians a week of prayer, personal AND in the community of the Church at worship — prayer for the kingdom of Christ, to be brought about by the Holy Spirit working through us, for the deep needs of the people for whom Christ died & rose again, people who don't yet know Him or refuse to accept Him; prayer that Christ's love, shown on Calvary, may by the Spirit of Love persuade the hearts of all men, including you & me. Each day this week, as every week, a service of meditation and prayer is broadcast for you at this time. You could use this to help your prayer — but don't just confine yourself to these few minutes: let everything you do and suffer be a joining of yourself to the prayer of the whole Church, of Mary & the disciples of ^{Jesus} awaiting the fulfillment of His promise of the Spirit.

[PRAYERS]

Ps 46
(Deaf) RHK

Ps 46, [which I read for you among our prayers today], is the Ps. which the Church in her liturgy has always specifically referred to the Ascension of Christ. Let us pray, in its mood of praise & rejoicing, while we listen to a modern setting of it — the language of this record is French, but its spirit can still speak for our hearts.

MUSIC - PRAYERS: Ps 46

WHAT IS, REALLY,

[I said last week I'd speak today on] the meaning of Christ's Ascension for us? Basically, it is that the Ascension isn't a private affair of the man, Jesus. He ascended, as He died and rose, for all of us, so that we could be with Him and so find a way to the life and love of the family of God. In Christ's Ascension to heaven, human life transformed has found a place there. This means that you and I, provided we remain united with Christ in grace, are to have an ascension too. We are to pass through death to a new life which will bring us into the presence of God our loving Father. By grace, given through what Christ has done for us, we've already in principle made that passage from mortal earthly life to share divine life. We still have to die, of course, but that's no longer an end, but a beginning. There is no death in heaven, we are to go home to a divine life that will be lasting. There is a human way of being which is not limited by the frustrations we experience now. Christ ascended bodily, with His risen humanity — that is to be our situation too. Man can ^{live} and is living with God.

in Christ. Our bodily resurrection & transfiguration, our being completely
 ourselves in heaven is assured by Christ's resurrection and ascension. This
 of course doesn't happen immediately after death: but it will, in God's good
 time, when Christ comes again to our earth to gather His people together
 in the great final manifestation of who He is and how God's plan in
 creation and for mankind has been worked out. He will come —
 that is the promise of the Ascension: meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is with us,
 building up gradually, and through the work, AND the mistakes and blunders
 of mortal men, the people, the community which the Father has chosen.
 The age of signs and symbols will be finished, when Christ comes, and
 the reality of the union of men with God and with each other in God's
 love, will be manifested. That will be the time of our bodily going to
 our Father; for our life in heaven isn't to be, and couldn't be a
 disembodied thing, if we are to be truly who we are now.

Meanwhile, like the Apostles, we can't spend our time 'looking up to
 heaven' — the Spirit is given us in order that through us the gospel,
 Christ's good news of His Father's love for us, be preached to every
 creature, that the whole of creation be brought into harmony and unity
 with the God who made it, after the destruction and disharmony
 caused by rebellious, and proud men.