



Week Leading up to 5.16.21: The Ascension Fulfills

***(Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 16:15-20

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You have risen and ascended into heaven with Your father. We wish to be Your disciples and believe in the power of Your name so that we, too, may bring Your healing message to the world. In Your Name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Was there anything that resonated with you from the reading today?

Leader Note: This video will refer to the Hebrews readings for the Ascension. Although this Hebrew reading is not the gospel reading for this year it is helpful in clarifying the topic of the Ascension. Your group can read Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23 prior to the video if you wish.

YouTube Video: The Ascension with Dr. Pitre (6:45)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=0uM9ByIh6qU>

Reflection or Discussion Questions: {Refer to the Additional Information below for an explanation of some of the terms used in the video.}

2. Was anything from this video new to you?
3. What do you think/feel that Dr. Pitre means when he says Jesus fulfills the feast of the Passover while on earth and fulfills the Day of Atonement through His ascension to heaven? Why do you think/feel Jesus needed to go to heaven? {To serve as the perfect sacrifice for our sins on our behalf outside of all time.}
4. Have you ever wondered how the ascension eliminated further need for more sacrifices?
5. What do you think/feel is the role of a priest? Do you think/feel we still need priests?
6. Did anything in this video change your perspective of the Mass and how Jesus becomes present in the Eucharist?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all}

- Read Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23 and ponder what word or phrase that tugs at your heart as you read it. Read it again more slowly and consider how it relates to your life and talk to God about what you've read and felt.
- There are graces and benefits that we receive by attending Mass in person. Read about them here: <http://www.pauline.org/Pauline-Books-Media-Blog/ArticleID/3960/3-Ways-to-Find-Meaning-at-Mass> or <https://mariancatechist.com/the-holy-eucharist-the-triple-sacrament-the-triple-source-of-grace/>. After reading these articles, consider your disposition at past Masses and how God might be calling you to surrender your will to His so that you may more abundantly receive His graces at Mass.
- Read the following sections from the Catholic Catechism on priesthood: CCC 1536-1540, 1544-1568. Make sure to thank a priest this week for making the presence of Christ as head of the Church visible.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Dear Jesus, You have fulfilled the Old Testament promises with Your ascension into heaven. Help us to truly appreciate all that You have done for our salvation and through the Holy Sacrament of the Mass. In Your Great name. Amen

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: [Acts 1:1-11](#) Sunday Reading 2: [Eph 4:1-13](#)

Week Leading up to 5.16.21: Continued...

Additional Information:

To understand topics covered in this video we have included some additional information below that can also be found at <http://www.thesacredheart.com/dictionary.htm#P>

For a more detailed study utilize this free course on Feasts of Faith: <https://stpaulcenter.com/feasts-of-faith/>

How Jesus is a **prophet, priest, and king**: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/jesus-and-the-new-testament/who-do-you-say-that-i-am-names-for-jesus/jesus-prophet-priest-and-king/>

Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from death by the blood of the lamb sprinkled on the doorposts in Egypt, which the angel of death saw and “passed over.” The Eucharist celebrates the new Passover, in which Jesus ‘passes over’ to his Father by his death and resurrection, thus anticipating the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the Kingdom. Read Exodus 12-1-51 for the details.

To learn about the **Day of Atonement** read [Leviticus 16:1-34](#)

Expiation is the act of redemption and atonement for sin which Christ won for us by the pouring out of his Blood on the cross by His obedient love “even to the end”. The expiation of sins continues in the mystical Body of Christ and the communion of saints by joining our human acts of atonement to the redemptive action of Christ, both in this life and in Purgatory.

Paschal Mystery is Christ’s work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, whereby “dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life”. The Paschal Mystery is celebrated and made present in the liturgy of the Church, and its saving effects are communicated through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, which renews the paschal sacrifice of Christ as the sacrifice offered by the Church.

More detail about the Ascension can be found here: http://www.lectorprep.org/ascension_yrABC.html
The chart below shows how Christ's Ascension relates to us.

Old Way (in Judaism)	New Way (in Christ)
Priest enters a man-made sanctuary	Christ enters heaven
The next contrast is not between Old Way and New, but between all other humans and Christ	
Priest offers sacrifice annually	Christ appears once before God at the end of ages, to take away sin by his sacrifice
All men and women die once, then appear for judgment	Jesus was offered once, and will appear bringing salvation
Priest enters sanctuary with lamb's blood	We have confidence of entry into heaven through Jesus' blood
Priest enters sanctuary through a veil	We enter through the veil that is Christ's flesh
He's just a priest	Christ is "a great priest over the house of God"