

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community ~ Spirit of Christ
Feast of the Lord's Ascension B ~ May 12, 2024

Homily ~ Father Ed Hislop

This Sunday as we enter the reality and the mystery of the Lord's Ascension, we hear those early apostles, when they had gathered together, wonder and ask, "*Lord, at this time are you going to restore the kingdom...?*" Having lived through this past year we might ask the same question.

So much has happened, so many "troubles", countless "serpents," all around, war, rampant hatred, division and too many "deadly things." Hearts are broken and breaking.

But wonders have also occurred in our own lives, in our community, all, we must believe, through the grace of God, "*according to the measure of Christ's gift.*" Hated is challenged, lies exposed, truth revealed and cries for justice and peace are unrelenting. Life is cared for, truth is sought, heartfelt love is shared. Yet the question still echoes through the human heart: When, Lord, will we be restored?

Jesus' answer echoes through the ages to our current times: "*It is not for you to know the times or seasons... but you **will** receive power.*" *The power to heal, to hope, to act, to speak and to "do this"—all of this—in memory of the one who now goes ahead of us.*

This Easter feast today—this day of the Lord's Ascension, is not about absence but rather about presence—

a new presence that can be seen, touched, and lived, in the realities and struggles, in the hope and grief, sickness and healing, sacrifice, and service of each day in the life of each person. A presence of "doing," "going," and acting for the sake of others; a "doing" of gratitude for gifts given and needs addressed; a "doing" of receiving "*the grace given to each of us, according to the measure of Christ's gift.*"

It is not for us to know the outcome; it is not for us to stand around gazing up into the sky waiting for something or someone else. It not for us to wait for "proof" or "certainty." It is for us to receive the power to "do," and act, to serve and love, to give, heal and hope.

"Christ has departed from our sight, that we might return to our heart and there find him. For he departed, and behold He is here, in the heart." ^{St Augustine}. Saint Paul's words are echoing through our living and our new hope today: "*May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call... and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe.*"

We choose to live in a manner worthy of the call we have received, with humility, gentleness, and patience.

The one who calls lives in our heart.

