

May 29, 2022
The Solemnity of the Ascension C
Bulletin Reflection
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Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53

Little kids are known for their questions: “Are we there yet?” “Why do I have to take a nap?” “What did you bring me?” and so on. Some philosophers have even called human beings the eternal questioners. And some questions are more profound than others. For instance, “Who am I?” is more important than “What’s for lunch?” This weekend, as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we ask a provocative question that comes from our first reading: “Why do we look up?” There may be a lot of reasons to do this: we want to see the sky, the stars, the sun and the moon; we want to see the beauty of a building or the majesty of a church tower; we want to think about what is above this world and beyond our sight. But when the disciples looked up in today’s first reading, they were looking at Jesus, as He ascended into heaven! Imagine the intensity of this moment: after His years of ministry and friendship among them that transformed their lives, He now returns to the Father. The disciples are stunned by this vision: they see Jesus in glory as He is taken up into heaven. The feast we celebrate this weekend reminds us of the glorious destiny of all Christians who follow Jesus. Life is not just a series of difficulties and sufferings and tests; it is a participation in the glory of God and a journey through life to our final home in heaven. But there is even more: the existence of the believer is also to be a life of witness to Christ. Like the early disciples, we are charged with the great task of proclaiming the Good News of the risen and glorified Jesus to others so that all people might meet Him, hear his call, become transformed by Him, and grow in love for Him. This is why we look up: to see Jesus and to realize how He brings meaning, peace, hope, joy and glory to our lives!