



# VOICE OF THE EMMANUEL



**(HAVING THE MIND OF JESUS)**

**2023**

**VOL : 5**

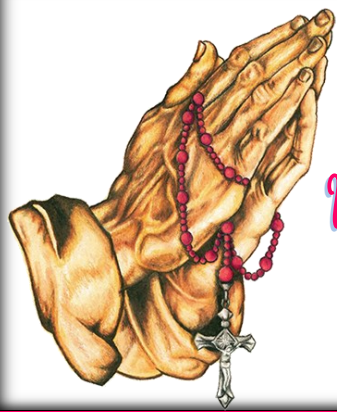
**FROM GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**VOICE : 05**



**HEAR MY VOICE...**

**COME CLOSER...**



*Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.*

*- St. Luke 24: 50-51*

*Don't stop with prayer alone. Let your faith be seen in actions. - our father*

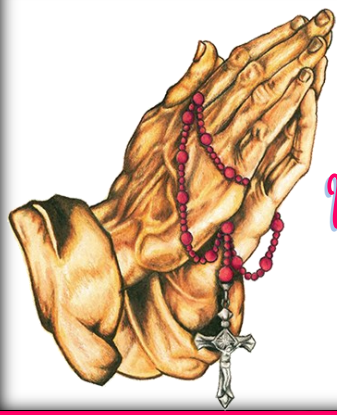
Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven. The account of Jesus' ascension is found in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11.

It is plain from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11).

**The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:**

- It signalled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.
- It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.
- It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration.
- It symbolized His exaltation by the Father. The One with whom the Father is well pleased was received up in honour and given a name above all names.
- It allowed Him to prepare a place for us.
- It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest and Mediator of the New Covenant.
- It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds.

Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father—a position of honour and authority. Christ is the Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18), the giver of spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:7-8), and the One who fills all in all (Ephesians 4:9-10).



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The Ascension is the triumphal act that crowns both the royal and priestly ministries of the Messiah: in which David's heir ascends to reign, and the great high priest completes the presentation of the atoning sacrifice.

On the feast of the Ascension, we are called to rejoice both in Jesus' victory over sin and death and in the glorious life that he has secured for us. We pray that we would experience the new life that is ours in Christ.

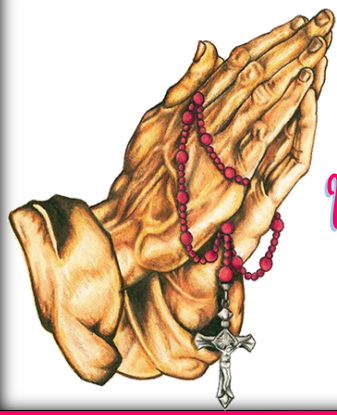
As Christians, our hope is secure because it rests in Jesus' death and resurrection. Because Jesus has overcome sin forever, we can live in freedom and peace, no matter what situations we may face. We have been reconciled to God. We are no longer strangers. Every day, we can live in confidence, knowing that our God is with us to strengthen and comfort us.

As we live every day in the hope of our eternal inheritance, however, we can begin to taste these blessings here and now. This is part of the "immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe." Before he returned to his Father, Jesus promised his disciples that anyone who believed in him would be able to cast out demons, heal the sick, and perform signs and wonders in his name (Mark 16:17-18). How? By the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is in our hearts, inviting us to yield to him and empowering us to live in the victory of the resurrection. No challenge is too great for a child of God!

**Here are five ways the ascension brings comfort to every Christian today:**

- 1. The ascension is the confirmation of Jesus' glorification in his resurrection.**
- 2. The ascension is our assurance of Christ's vindication.**
- 3. The ascension looks forward to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
- 4. The ascension means that Christ is now present with us by his Spirit.**
- 5. The ascension testifies that Jesus is coming back.**

We are not left alone. The ascension of Jesus Christ is significant because the story shows us that Jesus did not leave us alone when he left the earth. He told his disciples that the Holy Ghost would come to comfort them after he left. Today, we are endowed with the power to do many things because God sent the Comforter.



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We have work to do. The ascension teaches us that we need to be busy and about the business of winning souls and fulfilling whatever ministry God has called us. We need to be aware that Jesus will return, but we must not stand gazing, waiting for His return. We should be harvesting souls through whatever gifting God has given us. As Saints, we should also be prepared for His return since we do not know when that might be. We do not know if we are the generation that will see his return in the sky, but we should still have a spirit of expectation and preparedness.

Thus, ascension testifies that Jesus is coming back. Just as he levitated to heaven on a cloud, so also on a radiant cloud Jesus is returning. The seventh trumpet will blow, heaven will open, and Jesus will ride his cloud chariot back for our deliverance. Jesus smiles on us now in the benediction, but then we will see his face beam on us face-to-face.

Our bodies will be raised in glory as his body, and Jesus will openly acknowledge our names before heaven and earth that we are his and he is ours. Jesus has entered his glory, and he is coming back to bring us into his same glory forevermore.



## POINTS TO PONDER OVER



1. Exercise your hope today by calling to mind Jesus' death and resurrection and the salvation he won for you on the cross. How can you more fully place your hope and confidence in these truths?
2. Have you "tasted" the blessings here and now of your eternal inheritance? Ask God for a powerful outpouring of his Spirit so that he can manifest his power in your life.
3. As you reflect on Jesus' ascension, does it fill you with great joy?



**MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE; I KNOW THEM,  
AND THEY FOLLOW ME.**

**- JOHN 10:27**