

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Solemnity
May 12, 2013

At the Mass during the Day

Collect:

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection:

Based on a sermon for the Ascension by Pope Leo the Great from the year 444, this Collect was added to the Missal as an option for the Ascension after the Second Vatican Council.

In these words we are reminded of a God who keeps his promises and asks nothing of his people that he has not already asked of his own Son. The same Christ who “humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8) now sits at the right of God, victorious over sin and death. Christ has shown us the path we must take – passion and death, self-surrender and sacrifice – and also shows us where that path leads – resurrection, ascension, and a place in the presence of the Father.

If we as the mystical Body believe in God’s promises and truly follow in faith where our Head has gone before, then we should be filled with hope and thanksgiving at the thought of our destination even in the midst of our own crosses.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you always remain faithful to your promise. In our own joys and sorrows, happiness and pain, grant us the faith to remain fixed on your Son, who shows us the way and has prepared us a place with you.

Submitted by:
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