

# **Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons**

## **Suggestions for Leading Worship**



**Office of Worship**  
**P.O. Box 2028**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028**  
**Phone: (225) 242-0120**  
**Fax: (225) 336-8731**  
**E-Mail: [tranzino@diobr.org](mailto:tranzino@diobr.org)**

---

**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord – Cycle B

**Sunday or Feast Day date:** May 23-24, 2009

---

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### **An Overview...**

The celebration of the Ascension is not a reliving of the exact historical occurrence. This is because liturgy does not “perform” in this way. By its nature, liturgy does not redo what has been accomplished once and for all. This is also true because the Scriptures also differ as to the timing of this event. Luke says that the Ascension occurred on the evening of the Resurrection and Acts indicates that it occurred 40 days after the Resurrection.

The origins of this feast come from the fourth century with the commemoration of the exaltation of the Lord and the commission to go and preach to all nations. Over the Sunday Scriptural cycle the first two readings remain the same each cycle [year] while the Gospel changes per cycle. The Gospel of Cycle B is taken from the end of St. Mark’s Gospel with the disciples sent to the whole world empowered by the Lord Jesus who now sits at the right hand of the Father. The Gospels of all three cycles treat the two great emphasis of the feast: being sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and the intercession of Jesus at the right hand of the Father.

### **Faith Sharing Questions...**

1. In what way have you been sent to proclaim any part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. You were commissioned at your baptism as a disciple of Jesus. How do you understand being commissioned?
3. How does Christ remain present with the Church?

### **Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...**

1. Certainly the *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling* remains most appropriate for this feast, particularly with its connection to being sent. *If* you choose to use the Penitential rite, consider this sample: “You come to call all people to your Father; You are the risen and exalted Lord of all; You intercede for us at the right hand of the Father”
2. The first Opening Prayer is suggested, as it speaks of our *following Christ into the new creation...*
3. The first of the two Prefaces for Ascension are recommended because of the imagery which unites the Scriptural imagery of the day. Its length and its style which reconnects with Easter.
4. IF you choose to use Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon), remember there is a special form of the prayer, *In union with the whole Church...*
5. The solemn Blessing of the Ascension is recommended.

### **Looking Ahead...**

1. Next weekend is Pentecost Vigil and Pentecost. Notice that the Mass propers for the Vigil are *different* than the propers for the day. There are *three* options to choose from for the Vigil Mass Opening Prayer. The Scriptures for the Vigil give you *four* options for the first reading.
2. For Pentecost Day, the Mass propers are different than the Vigil propers. There are *different* readings assigned by Cycle for the Mass of the Day; and there is the mandatory *Sequence for Pentecost* [Come, Holy Spirit, Come]. This Sequence has been set to a variety of musical settings which can be used for the Mass of the Day.
3. Two “idea” feasts follow on the following two weekends – The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity and the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord.
4. Please find attached the informational flyer and the registration form for BOTH the workshop *SING TO THE LORD-MUSIC IN THE DIVINE LITURGY* for Priests/ Deacons AND the workshop for musicians, DREs and all who work with children in liturgy. These two workshops will be held at St. Aloysius Parish Hall on June 18. The presenter is Dr. Judy Bullock, Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Louisville. The workshops are cosponsored by the Office of Worship and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

## **SAMPLE INTERCESSORIES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION**

*Priest:* Longing for the coming of God's Kingdom, we offer our prayers of need to the Father...

*Deacon* (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the Church, missioned in the name of Christ to preach the Gospel by deed and in words, we pray to the Lord...
2. For this local parish of \_\_\_\_\_ ; may the newly-initiated among us inspire us to deepen our lives in the manner and memory of Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord...
3. For the world and all people; for a renewal of hope in the power of reconciliation over war, understanding and compassion over greed and anger, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who live with constant pain; for their wellbeing and comfort, we pray to the Lord...
5. For those who are completing their school year these days; for their future to be hopeful and fruitful, we pray to the Lord...
6. For those who have died in Christ and for all the dead, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and in silence we offer to the Lord our prayers of need...

*[pause for silence; the presider alone concludes]*

*Priest:* Loving God,  
you know our prayers and you hear them.  
Grant what we need this day  
and always through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.