

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 14, 2026

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

A New Song

The Ascension of Our Lord is best seen as the second of four stanzas in a song. The first stanza tells the story of Easter. On Good Friday, Jesus died a real death, not a pretend sleep or a fake death in order to do business with the devil or to lie in some “in-between” place, but an actual death. On Easter, a love very powerful, very strong, and very real overcame this shocking death and brought in new life for all.

The second stanza of our holy song is the ascension. So far, Jesus’ followers had experienced his horrific death, followed by deep grief, and then the wonderful surprise of Easter. At his ascension, Jesus gathers the disciples and promises they will never be abandoned. The Holy Spirit is coming after Jesus’ physical departure. This prepares the disciples for the next stanza.

The third stanza tells the story of the Day of Pentecost. The story of Pentecost shows, in the strongest of ways, that the Holy Spirit has now taken the reins. The Spirit is the empowerment of the very breath of life, the creative energy of all that is, love in all its fullness. Watch out, world—the Spirit is on the move!

The final stanza of this holy song is all about you and the church. How have you been created in the image of God, with gifts to use and to share? When have you been touched by the grace, love, and forgiveness of God? How will you and the church continue the song by sharing grace, love, and forgiveness with others in your community and the world?

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