

The Lord be with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Response: Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to His disciples, "I tell you truly, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve for a time, but your grief will be turned into joy. When a woman is in labor, she is sad that her time has come. When she has born her child, she no longer remembers her pain, for joy that a man has been born into the world. In the same way you are sad for a time, but I shall see you again. Then your hearts will rejoice with a joy no one can take from you. On that day, you will have no question to ask me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily — #2

Throughout these days between Easter and Pentecost, as we've been saying, the liturgy concentrates on the Gospel of St. John. In here, Christ's promise of joy, you might say ironically or mysteriously, Christ predicts that His followers will mourn and will suffer, at the same time promises them joy.

What does He mean?

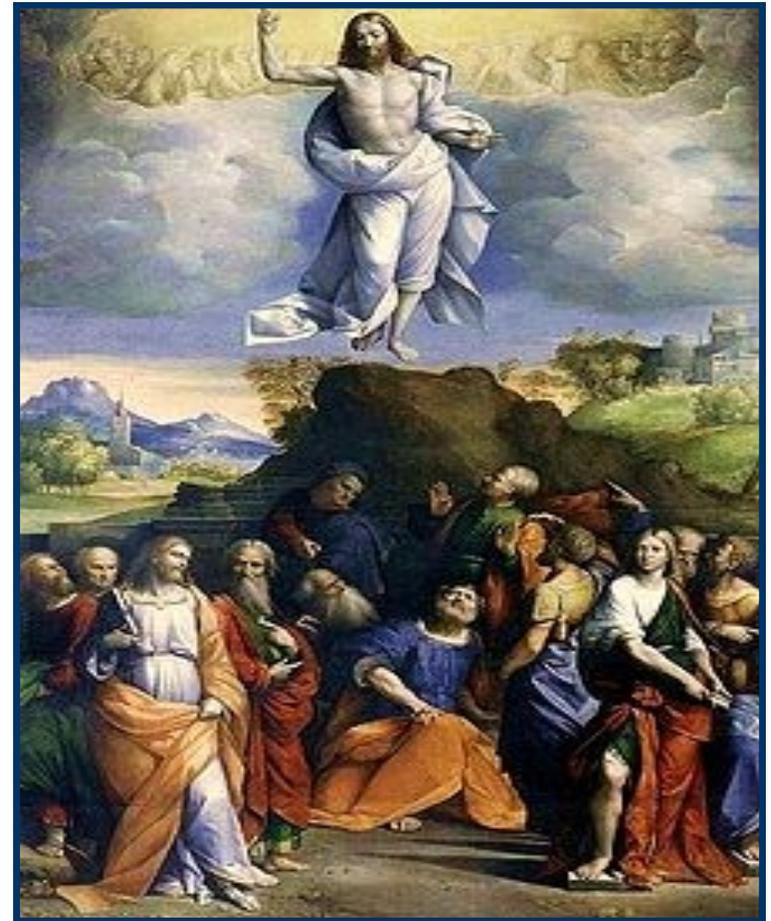
Well, He means both. On earth we are to serve God, follow Christ and pay the price and the price is high. And the price is very high. We are to finally reach heavenly beatitude. We were not made to be sad, but dear God, the price of eternal happiness, Jesus, we repeat is high.

There is, however, a joy we are to experience already on earth. What is that? The joy of anticipating a heavenly eternity. In other words, our joy here on earth, is a joy of anticipation; and provided we believe strongly enough, and hope deeply enough, there will be a measure of joy already here on earth, because we are sure, absolutely sure, that provided we are doing God's will here on earth, we will be at peace already here, dear Jesus. Nobody else is at peace except the one who is doing Your will. But then, everlasting joy in the world to come. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

Both of these Homilies were taken from Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Archives

Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord



*Alleluia,
this is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad,
Alleluia.*

