

## The Heavenly Enthronement of Christ (Solemnity, Year B)

### Acts 1:1-11—The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

1. Assumption: the day Jesus was “taken up” (Gk *analambanō*; Latin *assumptus*) (1:1)
2. Heaven: Jesus enters “into heaven” from which he will also “come” (1:11)

### Psalm 47—God Mounts His Throne to Shouts of Joy

1. Throne: God ascends to his “throne” in heaven (47:6-7)
2. Divine King: “God” himself is “king” over all the earth (47:8-9)

### Mark 16:15-20—The Assumption of Jesus (Longer Ending of Mark)

1. Creation: “preach the gospel to the whole creation” (16:15)
2. Baptism: “he who believes and is baptized will be saved” (16:16)
3. Signs: these “signs” will accompany those who believe (16:17)
  - a. Exorcisms: performed by Paul (Acts 16:16-18; 19:11-16)
  - b. Tongues: spoken by the Twelve apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:4-11)
  - c. Serpents: Paul is bitten by a serpent and survives (Acts 28:1-6)
  - d. Healings: Paul heals the father of Publius (Acts 28:8)
4. Ascension: Jesus was “taken up” (Gk *analambanō*; Latin *assumptus*) into heaven (16:19)
5. Enthronement: he “sat down” at the “right hand of God” (16:19)

### Living Tradition

Catechism: Henceforth Christ is *seated at the right hand of the Father*: “By ‘the Father’s right hand’ we understand the glory and honor of divinity, where he who exists as Son of God before all ages, indeed as God, of one being with the Father, is seated bodily after he became incarnate and his flesh was glorified.” *Being seated at the Father’s right hand signifies the inauguration of the Messiah’s kingdom...* (CCC 663-664)

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Ascension, Year B)

1. Why does the Church sing the enthronement Psalm 47 on the feast of the Ascension? Why is the enthronement of Jesus in heaven so important?

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### For Further Reading

1. Gerrit Scott Dawson. *Jesus Ascended: The Meaning of Christ's Continuing Incarnation*. London: T&T Clark, 2004. An excellent study by a Protestant scholar of the continuing significance of Jesus' ascension.