



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

June 1, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Ascending in Christ, Living in Hope”

On this sacred celebration of Ascension Sunday, our liturgical readings invite us into the profound mystery of Jesus' entry into the glory of the Father. The Gospel account of the Ascension may leave us in awe, as we try to grasp its depth and significance. Luke, the author of both the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, does not present us with a mere historical report but offers a catechetical message, a teaching filled with faith that calls us to reflection and renewal.

The Ascension of the Lord is not simply about His departure but about His fulfillment of the promise: “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). It is a movement toward communion with the Father, a journey of love, of hope, and of transformation. And even as Christ ascends, He does not leave us orphaned; His presence remains among us through the Holy Spirit, who enlightens, strengthens, and guides us. In the Holy Spirit, we continue to encounter the living Christ, in His Church, in the sacraments, in one another, and in the depths of our hearts.

As we approach the conclusion of the Easter season, the Ascension reminds us that every mystery we have celebrated leads us back to the Father, just as the Son has returned to His glory. This journey is not only Christ's; it is ours as well. We are invited to walk the path of discipleship, to embrace the mission entrusted to us, and to live in the hope of eternal union with our Creator.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us deepen our awareness of the great promise we have in Christ. Hope is not merely wishful thinking; it is the certainty that God is at work in our lives, leading us toward His Kingdom. The Ascension challenges us to lift our eyes to heaven, not as those who stare idly, but as those who are called to proclaim, to serve, and to love. Christ's mission did not end when He ascended; it continues through us, His Church, His body on earth.

May this day renew in us the joy of discipleship. May our prayers reflect our desire to remain faithful to our calling, to walk with confidence, and to share the love and mercy of Jesus with all.

In the spirit of this Jubilee, may we embrace the hope that transforms lives and leads us ever closer to the Father. Christ is among us; He is within us. Let us go forth in His love and bring His presence to the world.

Your fellow pilgrim of hope,

Fr. Pascual