



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)

May 17, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Lifted to the Father, Sent Into the World”

As we approach the close of the Easter Season, with the Ascension of the Lord this Sunday and the great feast of Pentecost next week, we are invited to pause and ask: What has the Lord been doing in my heart this Easter? Has He renewed your hope? Given you clearer direction? Filled you with deeper peace, steadier love, or unexpected joy?

Whatever graces you have received, know this: they are gifts freely given, born of the love and sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. Easter is not merely a season on the calendar; it is a season of grace meant to shape how we live today.

The Feast of the Ascension reminds us that Jesus has not left us behind. He has not abandoned a troubled world or a weary people. Instead, He has fully entered into the life of the Father so that He may be present to us in a new and powerful way, through the Holy Spirit.

If we think of heaven only as a place “up there,” we risk missing the heart of the mystery. The Ascension is not about distance but about communion. Jesus goes to the Father so that we may follow Him and His presence can fill every corner of our lives, our homes, our struggles, our hopes, our fears.

In a world that often feels uncertain, marked by conflict, division, economic strain, and the quiet anxieties many families carry, this truth matters. Christ is not distant. He is closer than ever.

In the Ascension account, Jesus gives His disciples a mission: “Go, make disciples of all nations.” They were afraid and unsure, having seen what happened to Him and knowing the risks. Yet strengthened by His promise and empowered by the Holy Spirit, they stepped forward with courage. Their world was no easier than ours, yet they trusted that Christ was with them. We are called to the same trust today.

The Feast of the Ascension invites us to remember our true goal: to be with God forever. It also challenges us to examine our lives honestly and ask whether we are living as His sons and daughters. It sends us out to our families, workplaces, schools, and communities to share the Good News that Jesus is the Savior the world still longs for.

As this Easter season draws to a close, let us hold fast to the blessings God has poured into our lives. He has given us His Son, our Redeemer, who brings light to our darkness and hope to our struggles. He is the source of our peace, love, and joy.

We truly have everything we need through Him, with Him, with Him, and in Him. May we trust His goodness, walk in His presence, and allow His Spirit to guide us in the days ahead. He is with us always.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual