

## The Feast of the Ascension

May16, 2021

**Today's first Reading from The Acts of the Apostles, presents the author [probably Luke] reviewing with Theophilus [A name which means, "Friend of God"] all that Jesus did and taught during his time here on Earth. He presented the image of the Kingdom of God as the Reign of God: How God initially intended for us Human Beings to care for each other and all Creation. Teaching the followers to preach the Gospel, and to prepare for the courage and strength of the promised Spirit of God. Jesus spoke of how they were to wait in Jerusalem knowing that God's Spirit will descend upon them giving them the mandate to preach throughout all of Jerusalem and the "whole world".**

**Yes, even after all this time, and after the Resurrection, Jesus knew he was to Ascend to his Father. Again, as many times before, the image of a Cloud came upon them and he was lifted up, taken from their sight. No wonder the disciples were standing there in awe. What was happening? Was this it? Would he return? Stunned and shocked, dazed. In their astonishment, they were paralyzed. Still looking up for some sign of life. The voices asked, why are you standing there looking at the sky? "Why are you standing there?"**

**Perhaps some of you have had the experience of losing a loved one, being present at the moment of death. Maybe you too were dazed, or stunned, ... or possibly in awe. It is a sacred moment, a holy passing. Like the disciples, we recognize that standing there is the privilege of this Sacred Passage.**