

Ascension - 5-13 -18

AS the college student rang the doorbell and delivered the pizza, the man who answered growled, "What's the usual tip?" *"Well, sir," the student replied, "this is my first delivery, but the other guys said that if I got a dollar out of you, I'd be doing great."* "That so?" grunted the customer. "Well in that case, here's \$10.00." *"Thank you, sir," the grateful student said, taking the bill, "This will be a big help at school."*

"By the way," the customer asked, "what are you studying?"
Answered the collegian, "Applied psychology."

The psychology student has learned not just to see what people do, but why they do it. The why for us, who believe, is the Risen Christ. Jesus calls the apostles before he ascends, calls them to wait for the Spirit, who will show them the way to spread the gospel to every creature. And that is still our mission today: to GO from here to tell the good news through our compassion, mercy and reconciliation for others. We study the scripture to motivate others to hear the good news which is the compassion, healing, forgiveness and mercy of God. Another paradox of our faith is that Christ is BOTH ascended to the father and among us. The Spirit joins us with the Father through Christ to raise us up right here and now.

The first to image God's love for us are no doubt our mothers. We give thanks for them today. Outside of Christmas and Easter, the next largest Church attendance is Mother's day.

I remember reading years ago about a mother of 10 who was interviewed in the news on Mother's Day. The reporter asked, "How are you able to love all ten equally?" Her response was, "I haven't loved them the same all the time. I love the one who is sick or afraid more at that time. I love the one who seems lost or is in trouble the most at that time. At times, each has needed more love than the others."

We proclaim Mark's gospel today. Most scripture scholars feel that account of the ascension of Christ in Mark's gospel was added by a later editor who felt it HAD to be there. Mark's original ending is an empty tomb. It is up to each listener of the gospel to believe for him or herself **that Christ is risen and ascended to the Father.**

But the Christ is also risen and in our midst always. The Eucharist reminds us whose we are – God's children. We are nourished with the presence of Christ – in word and sacrament – to become living members of the Body of Christ. We are to GO and BE Christ's presence to the world.

Mother's Day gives us a special day to be thankful for the moms who chose to make God's love real for us. May we, their sons and daughters, know God's love, a mother's love, in our own living. Let our lives be roses of love that decorate the lives of all whom we touch. Happy Mother's Day! God is good, all the time. Let us be the same.