**Prelude to Prayer**

His glorious Ascension signified the completion of his time on earth, which is celebrated by the Church forty days after the Resurrection and ten days before the Pentecost, [which was] the coming of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us hope by promising that *"when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also"* (John 14:3) https://www.jesuschristsavior.net/Ascension.html

**Mark 16:14-16, 19-20**

**14**Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

**15**He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**19**After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. **20**Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

* Father, You showed us the way to live, love and share through Jesus and His life. And then when He finished his job, He went back home to be with You. Thank you for the reminder that when we have finished our walk here on earth, we will follow his example and head home to be with You because He said He will prepare a room for each of us. That is extraordinary to think about.
* When Jesus gave us the commission to tell others about You and then to baptize them, He knew that we wouldn’t all be good at it, but He gave us a solemn and noble duty that is for every believer to do. We may not know all the right words to say, but the Holy Spirit will lead us to say what needs to be said. Thank you for that, too.
* Lord, I ask that you help me be bold enough to talk about You to… Help me to forget my fears and begin the conversation that is so hard. Open their hearts and minds to listen to me share my story and what You mean to me. Please give them a desire to want to learn more about what You can do in their life.
* Father, we have many here who believe in You, but they are fighting some hard battles. Illnesses, depression, loneliness, financial problems are just a few. I ask that you please lift them out of the darkness and bring them into the light. Give us the words of encouragement, gifts of time and anything else that we can do to help them through their struggles. Help us to show them You in the flesh.
* I ask that you bless each missionary that we speak about today. Help us to give thanks for the work they are doing in Your name and give us the heart to encourage and support them in anyway that we can. Let them know that they are loved and appreciated by each and everyone of us.
* As we go into another week, please give us an attitude of grace and love to all we meet. It is in Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen