

## The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

God's Holy Church is currently celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ with great joy. The Feast of the Ascension is a major feast of the Lord.

Jesus' Ascension into heaven is worthy of believers' full attention. Jesus' presence in human bodily form was complete. Jesus always was, is and always will be. Believers now await and prepare for His glorious return and the final judgment.

Preparation for Jesus' return includes believers seeking to remain constantly united with Christ. Unity with Christ is accomplished by constant prayer. Purposeful fasting facilitates unity with Christ.

Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ unites and fills the believer with Jesus. Frequently partaking of the Precious Body and Blood assures and maintains unity with Christ.

Believers unite with Jesus Christ at Baptism. Growth in Christ is to continue throughout life. Believers grow in and through God's Holy Church. The Church provides the teachings and nourishment for the journey to God's Kingdom.

Believers active in the life in Jesus Christ experience Christ's love, goodness and mercy. The Church enables the believer's understanding of Jesus Christ to increase as the believer grows in Christ.

Maturing in Christ is a life-long experience. There is always more to know and understand about Jesus Christ. The Evangelist John said centuries ago the world could not contain the books that would be written of all the things Jesus did. (Jn.21:25)

Our relationship with Jesus Christ defines our relationship with others. The degree we love Jesus Christ is manifested in our personal relationships. The degree Jesus fills our heart, mind and soul comes alive in our relationships.

The hope we have in Jesus Christ will govern our actions. The way we prepare for Jesus Christ's return is proof of our understanding, love and respect for Jesus Christ. We are to love and forgive others as Jesus forgives and loves us.

At Baptism believers confess belief in Jesus Christ as King and as God. The days of earthly life following baptism are to be lived in fully honoring Jesus Christ as King and our God.

Jesus' teachings and standards are authoritative. By confessing belief in Jesus Christ as King and God, we are expected to make Jesus' teachings and standards increasingly a part of our daily lives.

Being mindful of Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross has a central place in the hearts and souls of believers serving Jesus as King and as God. Jesus is worthy of unending gratitude for the love demonstrated by ascending the Cross.

The Feast of the Ascension is a defining moment for believers always to consider. The Feast of the Ascensions heightens awareness of Jesus Christ's return and glorious Second Coming.

The Feast of the Ascension speaks to the urgency and importance of preparing and being prepared for Jesus' return and final judgment. Serious believers want to be in good standing with Jesus Christ at His return and final judgment.

How we live in the time ahead will influence the outcome of the great and final judgment. The remaining days of our earthly lives will be an essential part of the record for the final judgment.

Constant repentance affords believers the opportunity to remain united with Jesus Christ. Repentance is the way to prepare for the Great and Final Judgement. Keeping the heart, mind and soul filled with love for Christ is the way to prepare.

The Lord Jesus Christ is ever-present to forgive and welcome the repentant believer. Heeding the urgency to repent ensures the believer will be prepared and ready when Jesus returns for the Final Judgment.

No one knows the time of Christ's return. Believers are not normally aware of the moment of their last breath. Believers are behooved to use each moment of life to repent and be firmly united with Jesus Christ.

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The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Holy Martyr Lucillian and those with him. June 2/June 16, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.  
Father Rodney Torbic