

May 1, 2008
Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter
The Ascension of the Lord

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Acts 1:1-11

Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Eph 1:17-23

Mt 28:16-20

Then Jesus approached and said to them,
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The first word that stands out for me today is the word, *Go*. I spent far too many years holding back, believing that humility meant lurking in the shadows. Today, I have to ask myself if it was really humility, fear, laziness, or simply self-centeredness that kept me from cultivating and using my God-given gifts to serve the world. If it was humility, I was mistaken for humility is about acknowledging the truth of who we are; if it was fear, I did not avail myself of God's gift of courage and allowed myself to remain spiritually immature; if it was laziness, I gave in to temptation of an easy life; and if it was selfishness, I listened far too closely the message of the world, the message that life is all about me. What stands out next is the phrase *I am always with you*. At this moment, I am struck by the silliness of fear and apprehension. The sad part is that I know I will fall prey to them again, but at his moment, I find great peace that I can simply rest in the assurance that the peace of Christ is always present.

First keep peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.

- Thomas à Kempis

When have I felt the presence of Jesus with me?