

Jesus, we don't want you to go!

Jesus replies: But I must go to the Father. The Father is greater than I. I love him, I am his second self, and I will be seated at his right side. If you love me, you'll be happy for me that I'm going.

Jesus, we don't want you to go!

Jesus replies: Don't be afraid. I will remember you and intercede for you *constantly* before the Father. I would never abandon you or leave you orphans. I will be with you, even till the end of the ages ... but in a different way. My Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will come upon you. My Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will enter you. You'll be in me, I'll be in you, and we'll all be in my Father. The wonderful works you've seen me do ... well, you will do these same works ... and even greater ones.

Jesus, we don't want you to go.

Jesus replies: And yet, I must. It's not for you to decide the hours of comings and goings --- mine, or your loved ones', or even your own. The Father knows just the right days and hours for everything. One day, I will return in glory. My glory will fill heaven and earth. The dead will arise, and the entire creation be transformed into heaven. On that day you'll have no more questions and no more regrets! For now, I will remain visible to you through the sacraments and the church. You have to trust God.

And John said: Go forward, Jesus, graduating at the head of the class, pulling us forward on your coattails, taking us finally back to the Great Heart of everything that is, to drink the water of our source. Your great adventure finally complete, finally fully home. Go forth! Alleluia!

And Thomas said: Go home, King Jesus, to the Father's heart. And if you are changed permanently from drawing close to people like us, wounded in your hands and feet and sacred heart, know that having been with you has wounded us as well. Our hearts, once having tasted, will feel aching and empty until you come in glory to fill us again. But now ... go forth! Alleluia!

And the two angels said: Men of Galilee, people of Salinas, disciples everywhere ... looking skyward can never bring him back. Set your sights lower, where dwells his least brothers and sisters. Speak kind words and offer sweet charities to them ... for in this way you shall bring him back, at least in tastes ... enough to last you until he comes in glory to fill the whole world. And they all replied YES. AMEN. Go forth. But come again, Lord Jesus! Alleluia!