

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



The Promise We Cling To

Wondrous God,
you have given us much to celebrate.
Jesus' rising from the tomb
offered victory over death,
giving us hope for eternal life.
As we celebrate Jesus' returning to you,
we pray for the enlightenment
of our hearts
that we will continue to be witnesses
of Easter joy in all the places you
send us.

When challenges beset us,
may we remember the promise of Jesus
to remain with us always.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 26 or 29, 2022

Awaiting the Gift



Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23 or Ephesians 1:17–23; Luke 24:46–53. Throughout these Easter weeks, the Gospels tell of the risen Jesus spending time with his disciples. As Christ prepares to return to the Father, he reminds his followers of his teachings and recalls what they have seen and heard. During these talks, Christ points out his followers' calling and helps them see that they are truly loved.

Finally, just before he is to ascend, Jesus points to Scripture: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance . . . would be preached in his name for all the

nations.” It would be up to these followers to preach and teach in Christ's name. They would not do that alone, for they were to await the Spirit. While awaiting the arrival of the Spirit, they praised God.

Like those disciples, we too must seek the Spirit as we act as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. In prayer, we ask for the Spirit to guide our words and our actions, for we cannot act alone while doing God's work. Only if we depend on God will others experience our deeds as filled with the love of God. Our reliance on the Spirit in the ordinary moments of our lives makes a difference. Pray for the grace to allow the Holy Spirit to live in and through you.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 30

Take Courage

Jesus tells his disciples, “In the world you face persecution. But take courage, I have conquered the world.” When we spread the Gospel, we do so knowing that Jesus has gone before us, and that his persecution, death, and rising, offer eternal life. We do not face the trouble in our lives by ourselves; our faith reminds us that we are never alone. *Today’s readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

Tuesday, May 31

Blessed Encounters

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Once Mary hears about her cousin Elizabeth being with child, as she is herself, the Gospel tells us she travels in haste to be with her. Elizabeth’s greeting was both a comfort and affirmation for Mary. Today remember and pray in gratitude for the people in your life who, in times of challenge, support you. *Today’s readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a or Romans 12:9–16; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Luke 1:39–56.*

Wednesday, June 1

What Is the Truth?

For his disciples and for us, Jesus prays, “Sanctify them in the truth.” The prayer commits us to being and saying what is true. Pray for the grace to know the truth in your life, and to be a witness of what is true—that is, every human being is created in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. Imagine a world that recognizes this truth. *Today’s readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

Thursday, June 2

Being One

What would our world look like if we believed that we are all called to be one as Jesus is with his Father? In and through our baptism, we are united with God and others in our faith community, and because of this union, we are to be a witness to others. How would striving for unity with all Christians change the way you pray, the way you live, and the way you make present God’s love in our world? *Today’s readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

Friday, June 3

God Is Good and Kind

One of the songs from the musical *Godspell* was adapted from today’s Psalm 103 “Bless the Lord, O my soul.” The song and psalm remind us to remember the goodness and kindness of God. When was the last time you paused to thank God for something good in your life? When have you felt God’s abundant kindness in your life? *Today’s readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

Saturday, June 4

Stories to Guide Us

Scripture is a living, breathing revelation of God’s life with humanity. Stories in the Bible are rooted in a certain time and place. But each of those stories holds a truth that is still relevant today. In our living out of our faith we continue to breathe life into the words of Scripture. Take some time soon to sit down with Scripture, discover the stories of our ancestors in faith, get to know Jesus better, and embrace the challenge of discipleship. *Today’s readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*

