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Remember In Prayer

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The Ascension of the Lord

June 2, 2019

**God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.**

FEET ON THE GROUND

“Until next week, keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!” Not today’s scriptural wisdom, but legendary DJ Casey Kasem’s sage advice, heard across America for generations, *American Top 40*’s challenging sign-off. Though Casey wasn’t quoting scripture, today’s Acts of the Apostles offers similar advice. As Jesus ascended, disciples “were looking intently at the sky.” Wouldn’t we prefer a soul-relaxing gaze into peaceful blue skies to a heart-breaking focus on this blood-stained earth? But heavenly questioners asked Jesus’ first disciples, “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” Earth awaited their mission! While our hearts should “keep reaching for” heaven, we need to “keep our feet on the ground.” Ascension’s scriptures and the Jubilee of Mercy remind us: the Jesus we revere as “ascended into heaven” lives right here among us on earth, awaiting our recognition and loving service.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The mystery of the Ascension has to do with holding in tension a sense of God’s nearness, along with the burden caused by apparent signs of absence. The risen Jesus says to Mary Magdalene, “Do not cling to me,” perhaps pointing out to her that his physical presence to the disciples was time-bound and temporary. It was a gift for their transformation, and after forty days, he vanished from their sight and hearing, though never out of their consciousness.

They do not mourn at his going this time: there is no trace of the disciples who hid in fear at his crucifixion, no sense of the women who wept softly as they carried ointments to the tomb through the dewy morning light. Instead, the scriptural accounts show them full of joy, comforted by his promise to be with them forever, and open to the Spirit’s power. They are joyful, energized, aware, and united with one another in love. They seem to grasp an awareness that if the mission to the whole world was a serious one, then the presence of the Risen Christ could not be pinned down to any one place or time, but had to be always and everywhere completely available. All peoples, all times, all cultures were opened to receive him in this moment of the Ascension. The energy of this feast is drawn not from absence, but renewed and deeper presence

WINGED FAITH

**Faith furnishes prayer with wings,
without which it cannot soar into Heaven.**

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

Psalm — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

Second Reading — God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens (Ephesians 1:17-23) *or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23.*

Gospel — As Jesus blessed his disciples he parted from them and was taken up to heaven (Luke 24:46-53)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab;
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab;
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or
Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35,
27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17;

A great big thank you to all of the
folks who cleaned and worked so
hard to clean the siding and clear all
the weeds from the stations and
the flower beds and trim the
bushes .

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord;
World Communications Day

Monday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

Wednesday: St. Boniface

Thursday: St. Norbert; Julian Calendar Ascension

Friday: First Friday

A GARDENER’S CREED

**One is nearer God’s heart in a garden than
anywhere else on earth.**

It’s not too late to join Deacon Jim
Moss’ new classes on “Good Goats:
Healing Out Image of God” on
Tuesday, May 28th, from 1:00 to 2:30
pm. The book is \$10.

Letter To a Suffering Church
By Bishop Robert Barron
A Bishop speaks on the sexual
abuse crisis

A copy of the latest book by
Bishop is available for a dollar with
no shipping .I have the order form
in the office if you are interested

June 9th
Lector Jeff

E/M Florencia /Ann

Ushers Michael/ Jesus

Server Ty

Offertory 6./2/2019
BUDGET \$1249.00
ACTUAL \$590.00
-\$659 .00