



Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there looking up at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way.

ACTS 1:11

THE  
ASCENSION  
OF THE LORD

MAY 16, 2021



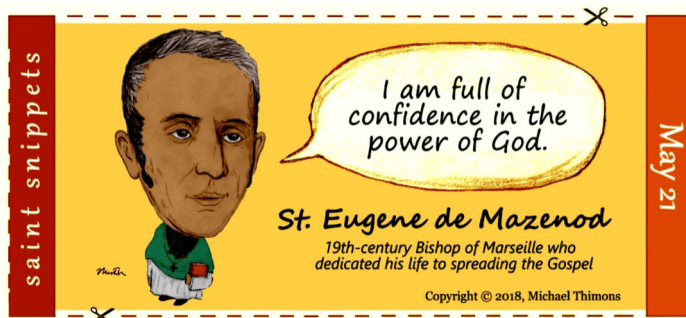
## Feast of Faith

### The General Intercessions

The general intercessions were restored to the liturgy in the reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council. In these prayers—also known as the “universal prayer” or “prayer of the faithful”—the assembly prays for the Church, the world, and the local community. As the name “prayer of the faithful” reminds us, these intercessions are a privilege of the baptized, which is why any catechumens are dismissed before the Creed and the intercessions. In baptism, we become members of a royal priesthood, and what do priests do? They intercede; they pray. In standing to pray to God as a community, we are living out our royal priesthood.

The intercessions at Mass usually follow a clear pattern, moving from general to specific needs. We pray for the whole Church. We pray for the world and for our nation. We pray for our local community, for those who have died and for all the sick and afflicted. In our united prayer, we reach beyond ourselves and our own needs and grow in awareness of and compassion for the needs of others.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## The Significance Of The Ascension

The theological unity, or perhaps even the temporal experience of the early community, made it seem that Jesus’ resurrection and his ascension were inseparable aspects of a single mystery. Only in the later writings of Luke and John has further theological reflection helped the Christian community to distinguish different dimensions of the mystery. Liturgical tradition has followed the forty-day chronology formulated by Luke. We would miss the point, however, if we were to demand a precise historical chronology of events such as the Resurrection-Ascension that are primarily spiritual in nature and that clearly surpass the bounds of time and space as we know them.

What is important for us to grasp is the significance of the Ascension. For Luke, it is the decisive turning point that marks the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry and the beginning of the disciples’ Spirit-led ministry and thus the ministry of the whole church down to our own day. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
<b>Friday:</b>	Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
<b>Saturday:</b>	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
<b>Sunday:</b>	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 Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

## Saints and Special Observances

<b>Sunday:</b>	The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day; Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sundown
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. John I
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. Bernardine of Siena; Julian Calendar Ascension
<b>Friday:</b>	St. Christopher Magellanes and Companions
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Rita of Cascia; Vigil of Pentecost



## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — This Jesus will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven (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 Ephesians 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13].  
**Gospel** — The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God (Mark 16:15-20). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



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## The Ascension of the Lord May 16, 2021

Whoever believes and is baptized  
Will be saved.

—Mark 16:16

### *Treasures From Our Tradition*

Today's celebration varies from place to place. In some parts of the United States, people gather for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, while other places celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. Several years ago, regions of bishops were permitted to decide whether to retain Ascension Day on Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter, or to move the celebration to the nearest Sunday. This new flexibility in the Christian calendar has to do with the desire to gather the Church to celebrate its central feasts fully, and with the Eucharist. Increasingly, as priests serve remote and scattered parishes, this is not always possible mid-week.

The Ascension is a key moment for grasping what life in Christ is all about. It is not about a departure, but rather a plan for presence. We who are nourished by the Lord's body and blood in the Eucharist are transformed to be his abiding presence in the world. That is a truth so worth celebrating that we can adjust our calendar in order that the fullest possible gathering of the Church can be achieved.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### *The Ascension of the Lord Exalted in Glory*

All three readings talk about Jesus being taken up into heaven or in a cloud or on high. Remember that in the Old Testament, a cloud was a sign of God's presence. So these descriptions of the ascension actually tell us that Jesus is reunited with his Father and exalted in glory with the Father. Jesus not only has a new life that cannot be ended by death, he also is no longer limited by time or space as he was before he died. So what does that mean for us?

Because he is not limited, he can be with us everywhere. So everything we do for him (being patient with a child or elderly person, caring for the poor or the sick, forgiving someone who hurt us) is done with Jesus. Through his Spirit, he gives us the power and the courage to act as Jesus and the vision of faith to see Jesus in others.

Seeing Jesus in others takes some practice. Think of it as a learning process. One way we learn is through the lives of the saints. They start out as ordinary people who give their lives to Jesus. As we read or hear about them, we see how God works through them to do great things. We learn that they become more and more like Jesus, in how they treat others with love

and respect.

But if the saints seem too distant, we can look at someone we love. Whether it is a parent, spouse, brother, sister or friend, the good that they do and the love they show is from God. So we can learn about God's love for us by letting ourselves be loved by another. Take time to thank God for those who love you and ask him to open your eyes to see Jesus in them.

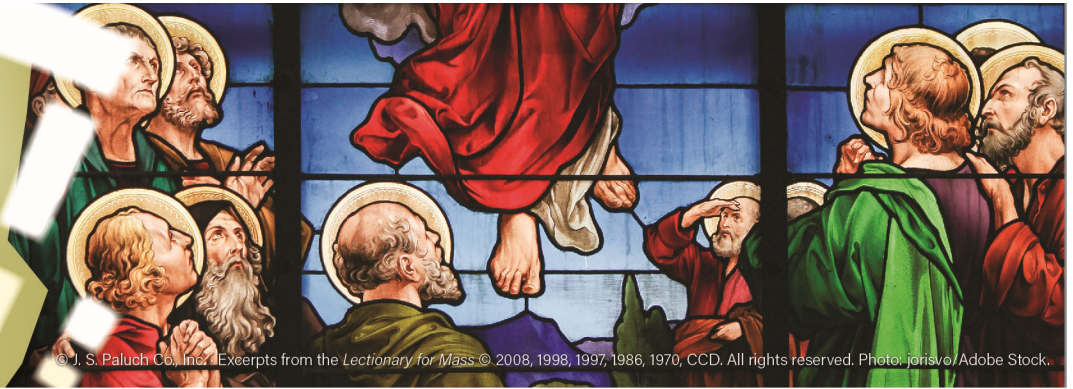
The other side of the coin is seeing Jesus in ourselves. We may have to forgive ourselves for the bad choices we have made in the past, or the bad habits we still have. We also have to accept that God really does love us as his children. And we have to accept that sometimes, even when we do our best, we still seem to fail. Remember, to the world of Jesus' time, he looked like a failure: He was executed as a criminal, his few followers all went into hiding, and the one he picked as his successor (Peter) denied even knowing him. But the God who brings life out of death also brings success out of failure. So trust his promise that we have Jesus in us. Then do your best to follow Jesus and you may lead someone else to him.

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ACTS 1:11



# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 16, 2021

## THE CENTRAL MYSTERIES

Throughout the season of Easter, we ponder the mysteries that are central to our faith in Jesus Christ. We reflect on Jesus' life, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection and consider the meaning of Christ's life and love. Today we celebrate Jesus' ascension and wonder with the apostles what we are to do and how we are to live as a result. As disciples, we are called to put our faith into action, grow to be more like the Lord, be united with other believers in community, and bring others to Christ through the way we live our lives. In so doing, we will live a life worthy of our call in Christ, a life of unity in the Spirit, of hope and peace.

### WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE SKY?

"Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" We can only imagine the apostles' astonishment, not only at Jesus' ascension, but at the message from the men in white garments who appeared at that very moment. Jesus had been crucified and died, rose from the dead and spent time with them, teaching them to understand how he had fulfilled all that had been written about the Messiah, and suddenly, he was taken up to heaven. Surely they would have wondered what was happening and what the meaning of Jesus' ascension was. We wonder with them. What does Jesus' ascension call us to be or do? We rely on the testimony of those who were with Jesus to grasp the mystery of his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Their witness calls us to believe in Jesus, grow in relationship with him, and live as his disciples in the world.

### YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD, NOW GO DO

It isn't enough to say we believe in Jesus. We are called to live as members of Christ's body and share the joy of faith with others. We do this by discerning and fulfilling our vocation, the ways in which God calls each of us to live. Often when we think of vocation, the first thing that comes to mind is the priesthood. But each of us experience vocational calls, to our state in life and to the ways in which we live, work, and serve. Each of us has been given different gifts and are called according to our gifts. We are equipped with talents and skills through which we may contribute to bringing the mercy, compassion, truth, goodness, and beauty of God's love to the world. What are your particular gifts and talents? How may you be called to use them to bring Christ's love to others, leading them to see and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ?

## TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]  
Mark 16:15-20

# Prayer of the Faithful

**Let us bring our prayers to God on high, who raised Jesus from the dead  
and whose Spirit is with us still.**

**For Pope Francis and all our Church leaders who invite  
us to stop looking up at the sky and challenge us to undertake the work at hand,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all people in the world to respond to God's call to live  
with humility and gentleness, with patience and love,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who have celebrated sacraments of initiation  
this Easter season, as they go forth to proclaim the gospel by their lives,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those whose work it is to heal the illnesses of others  
through their skill in the medical sciences and through patient and attentive care,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those who are graduating from school this month  
as they celebrate their accomplishments and prepare for a new  
beginning at work or school,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from  
COVID-19, and for all who have died,  
especially N., N., and N.,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

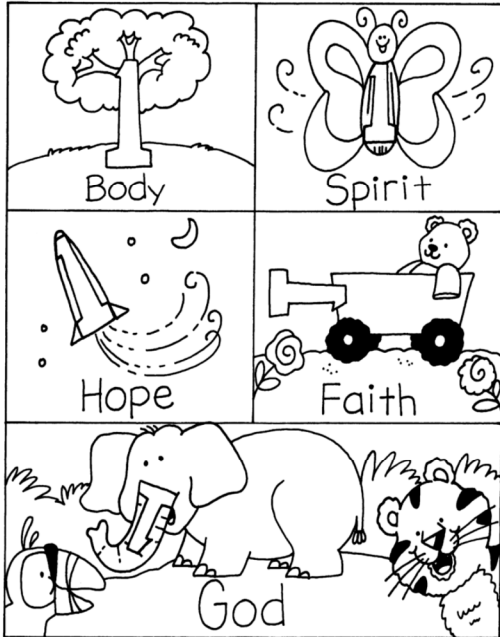
**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence  
of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**God in heaven,  
as you drew Jesus beyond our sight  
so that we might seek him in his glory,  
grant that we might show Christ to others  
by the lives we lead.**

**Graciously hear these and all the prayers we make  
in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.**

# God's Word for Children

Paul uses a certain number several times in his letter to the Ephesians (4:4-6). That number is hidden in each picture that goes with the word below it. When you find each number, color it a dark color. Then read the phrases that tell what Paul says we all have.



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## The Ascension of the Lord

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus instructed his disciples, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).  
 Look at all the letters in this house.  
 Search in all directions, including forward and backward, to discover and circle ten places you can spread the gospel in your corner of the world!

**Jesus Saves!**

r	e	s	t	a	r	a	n	t	s	g	m
m	c	o	f	p	a	c	h	u	r	c	h
y	r	a	r	b	i	r	w	t	h	x	s
n	e	i	g	h	b	o	r	h	o	o	d
p	l	a	y	g	r	o	u	n	d	o	j
q	e	b	k	r	a	p	v	d	k	l	i
l	n	s	t	o	r	e	h	s			

## The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



Jesus answered them, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

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# The Ascension of the Lord



## May 16, 2021

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

— Mark 16:16



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