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Give Us
This Day [®]

MAY 2020

Canticle of Zechariah (Benedictus)

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

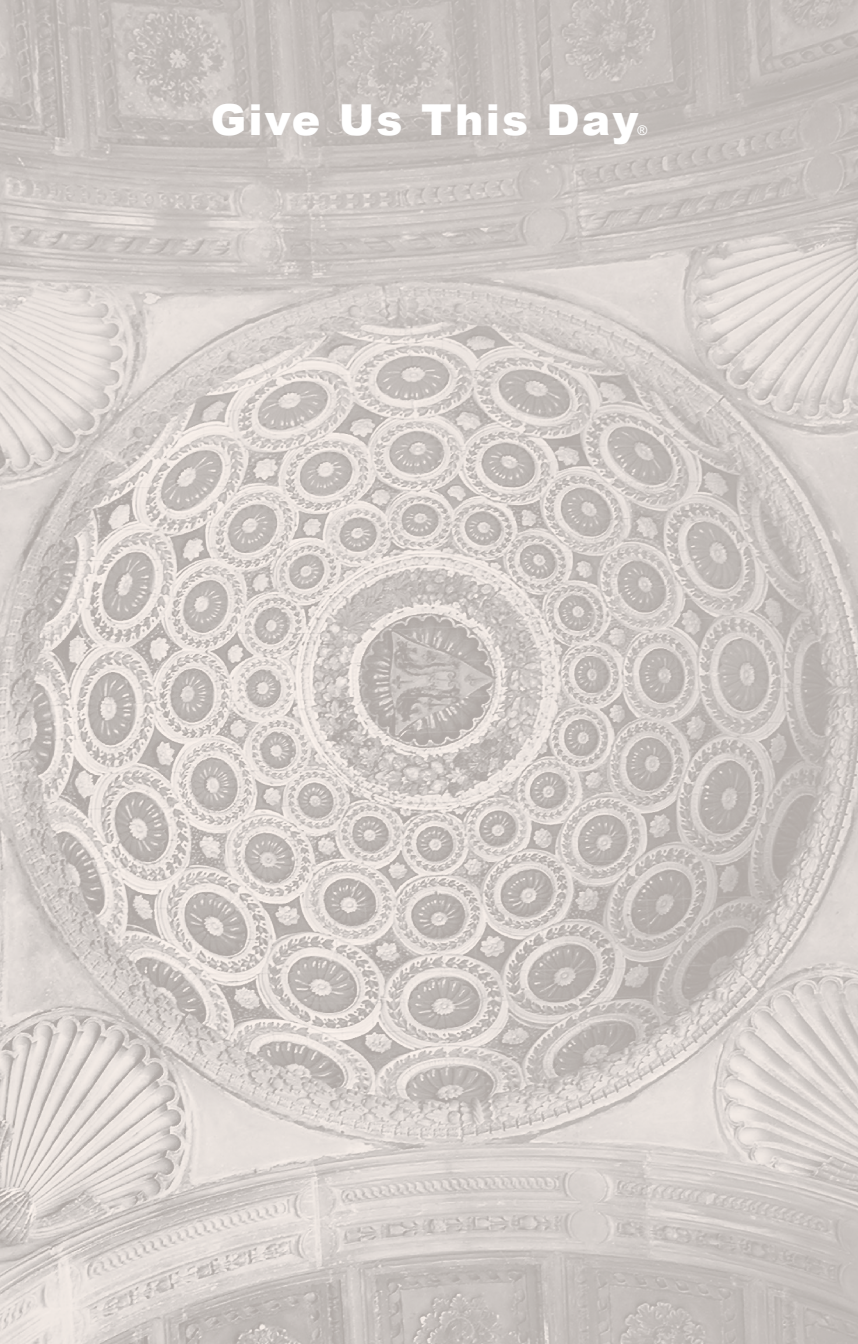
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Give Us This Day®



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

May 2020

<p>3 Fourth Week of Easter W</p> <p>✎ Mary DeTurris Poust</p> <p><i>Within the Word: Of Sheep and Shepherds</i> ✎ Sr. Carolyn Osiek</p>	<p>4 W</p> <p>✚ Rachel Held Evans ✎ St. Cyril of Alexandria</p>	<p>5 W</p> <p>✚ St. Jutta ✎ Hosffman Espino</p>
<p>10 Fifth Week of Easter W</p> <p>✎ Alice Camille</p> <p><i>Within the Word: A Mutual Indwelling</i> ✎ Fr. Patrick Hartin</p>	<p>11 W</p> <p>✚ English Carthusian Martyrs ✎ Rachelle Linner</p>	<p>12 W</p> <p><i>[Sts. Nereus and Achilleus]</i></p> <p>✚ René Voillaume ✎ Sr. Jeana Visel</p>
<p>17 Sixth Week of Easter W</p> <p>✎ Loretta Ross</p> <p><i>Within the Word: From Beginning to End: Praise God!</i> ✎ Sr. Irene Nowell</p>	<p>18 W</p> <p><i>[St. John I]</i></p> <p>✚ Ruth and Naomi ✎ Fr. Paul Boudreau</p>	<p>19 W</p> <p>✚ St. Celestine V ✎ Sr. Lynn Elisabeth Meadows</p>
<p>24 Seventh Week of Easter W</p> <p>✎ Fr. Adrien Nocent</p> <p><i>Within the Word: These Mysterious Sadducees</i> ✎ Fr. Ronald Witherup</p>	<p>25 W</p> <p><i>[St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi]</i></p> <p>✚ Bd. John of Prado ✎ David Farina Turnbloom</p>	<p>26 W</p> <p><i>St. Philip Neri</i></p> <p>✚ St. Philip Neri ✎ Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr</p>
<p>31 Pentecost Sunday R</p> <p>✎ Fr. Ronald Rolheiser</p>		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
				1 W <i>[St. Joseph the Worker]</i> † Takashi Nagai \ Fr. Michael Casey	2 W <i>St. Athanasius</i> † Ade Bethune \ Elisabeth of Schönau
				6 W † Bd. Mary Catherine of Cairo \ Sr. Ruth Burrows	7 W † Jean Vanier \ Sr. Pat Kozak
13 W <i>[Our Lady of Fatima]</i> † Unita Zelma Blackwell \ Card. Carlo Maria Martini	14 R <i>St. Matthias</i> † St. Matthias \ Fr. Lawrence Mick	15 W <i>[St. Isidore]</i> † St. Dymphna \ Mary Jo Leddy	16 W † Alban Butler \ St. Gertrude of Helfta		
20 W <i>[St. Bernardine of Siena]</i> † Sr. Irene McCormack \ Walter Burghardt	21 W <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i> † Ade Bethune \ St. Leo the Great	22 W <i>[St. Rita of Cascia]</i> † St. Toribio Romo González \ Susan Pitchford	23 W † Jane Addams \ Fr. Anthony Gittins		
27 W <i>[St. Augustine of Canterbury]</i> † St. Melangell of Wales \ Abbot John Klassen	28 W † Bd. Margaret Pole \ Melissa Musick Nussbaum	29 W † St. Ursula Ledóchowska \ St. Bede the Venerable	30 W † Marc Sangnier \ Sr. Colleen Gibson		

Key

- † *Blessed Among Us* by Robert Ellsberg
- \ *Reflection/Within the Word* Author
- [] *Optional Memorial*

Vestment colors:

R Red W White

Give Us This Day®

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Holy Conversation

Richard Gaillardetz

Let's consider two stories. Both are from the Acts of the Apostles, an account of the growing joys and pains of the early church, a text we will be encountering in the liturgy over the next month.

The first story recounts the conversion of two men, a Roman centurion named Cornelius and the apostle Peter (Acts 10). Cornelius is a "God-fearer," that is, a gentile sympathetic to Jewish belief. An angel instructs Cornelius to seek out Peter. As Cornelius's servants are en route, bearing the invitation, Peter has a disturbing vision in which he is instructed by God three times to eat unclean food. Each time Peter declines out of obedience to Jewish dietary restrictions. Still puzzling over the meaning of the vision, Peter accepts the invitation from Cornelius and travels to his home where, we are told, Peter "conversed with him" about the Good News of Christ. Their conversation leads Cornelius to convert to the Gospel. Yet Peter undergoes his own conversion of sorts. Through their conversation, perhaps moved by Cornelius's spiritual openness, Peter abandons his far-too-cramped sense of the scope of God's love: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34-35).

The second story occurs a few chapters later and it too is concerned with the mission to the gentiles (Acts 15). The church in Jerusalem gathers together to discuss whether gentile converts to Christianity need be circumcised as the Mosaic Law required. Some insisted that circumcision was still necessary; others disagreed. "After much debate had taken place," Peter, Paul, and Barnabas each gave moving

testimony to the capacious breadth of God's saving action. Finally, a letter is sent to Antioch, where the dispute began, affirming that "it is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond the necessities" (Acts 15:28). Here, we see the fruit of genuine debate, far removed from the ideological posturing that marks so much ecclesial discourse today. This first church "council" allowed differing voices to have their say, creating a space for the Holy Spirit to bring new insight.

In each story we find church leadership learning to listen to the Spirit by way of what we might call "holy conversation." Prior to his encounter with Cornelius, Peter thought he already knew all he needed about God's saving work. In like manner, some of the leaders in Jerusalem were certain they already knew what God required of Gentile converts. In both stories holy conversation led to conversion. What made that conversation holy was both a willingness to listen to the other and an openness to change.

We have much to learn from the "holy conversation" of the early church. We too can struggle to hear what the Spirit might be saying to us, particularly in situations of anger, pain, and conflict. Mimicking today's often toxic civic discourse, we in the church easily succumb to the politics of demonization as we impute the worst of intentions on our opponents and refuse to acknowledge any truth, value, or insight in their views. The call to holy conversation beckons us toward a more patient listening to those with whom we disagree. It invites us to resist the temptation to merely "win the argument" in favor of a common search for the gentle voice of the Spirit.

*Richard R. Gaillardetz is the Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College and the author of *By What Authority? Foundations for Understanding Authority in the Church* (Liturgical Press).*

Teach Us to Pray

Praying through Transitions

Fr. James Martin

The day before my nephew left home for his senior year in college, I told him not to worry about the strong emotions he might feel in the coming months. It's normal, I told him, for college students to experience a roller coaster of feelings during times of transition. Perhaps I should have said it's normal for *everyone* to feel strong emotions in times of transition!

How do you pray during those transitions—the start or end of college, a new job, a move to another city, the death of a loved one, the birth of a child? One way is to say good-bye to whatever “state of life” you were in before the transition. If you don't let go of the past, it's hard to embrace the future.

One of the most powerful prayer experiences for me came when my mother sold our family home a few years after my father's death. During my annual retreat, a Trappist monk suggested the following: Imagine yourself going through all the rooms of your house, one by one, with Jesus. Speak with Jesus about what went on there and share your feelings.

It was a remarkably easy prayer. I started with my bedroom and recalled so much that had happened in just that one room: studying at my desk, playing with friends, gazing out the window. At the end of the meditation, I left the house with Jesus and realized I could always return in my imagination.

In whatever way you say “Good-bye” to the past, include Jesus. Then with him, say “Hello” to the future God has in store for you.

James Martin is a Jesuit priest, editor at large of America magazine, and author of many books, including Jesus: A Pilgrimage, The Jesuit Guide, and In All Seasons, For All Reasons, a collection drawn from this column in Give Us This Day.

A Pentecost Prayer

Beloved, my soul seems happy listening.
I think it must be for Your footsteps
or perhaps for the Holy Spirit
who comes quietly,
as a soft evening wind.
And afterwards, my soul is joyous, refreshed.

—Catherine de Hueck Doherty



Within a faith tradition long dominated by male imagery and implicit male privilege, the Holy Spirit whispers of the feminine. For many, women and men alike, this hint from the Holy Spirit is a balm to the soul. Though the person of Wisdom in Proverbs (and other biblical books) is assigned the pronoun *she*, it cannot be said that the Holy Spirit thus gives the Trinity its female dimension. God is mystery, beyond any of our allegorical or stereotypical descriptions.

Yet there is a gentleness and tenderness in this Pentecost Prayer that reminds me of Elijah's story in the first book of Kings—when he encounters God not in the violent wind, not in the earthquake, not in fire, but in “the light, silent sound,” which is also translated as a “gentle whisper” or a “still small voice.” Similarly, some of the named roles of the Holy Spirit, when invoked through the ages, are compassionate, even passive: Consoler, Counselor, Comforter. These vocations necessitate a light touch, an abiding heart, and an ability to listen.

Notice the contrast between the account of Pentecost in Acts—wherein the Holy Spirit arrives with a loud roar and

tongues of fire and pushes startled evangelizers out into the streets—and this brief, sweet Pentecost Prayer, which compares the Holy Spirit to “a soft evening wind.” By addressing the divine as “Beloved,” it echoes the Song of Songs, and the lush, sensuous love the ardent young lovers express for each other. The Holy Spirit breezes into our hearts and invites us to share that tender intimacy with God when we pray.

The astounding love that God demonstrates for us in the Incarnation—a miracle that, notably, required the love and fertile womb of a blessed woman—binds us to the mystery of the Trinity with the strength of a holy vow. Our hearts sealed in that relationship, we welcome the quiet entrance of the Holy Spirit that leaves our souls “joyous, refreshed.” When we are one with God’s will and God’s presence, we rest in a kind of spiritual afterglow. We are again inspired to believe with our whole happy soul that love will win.

We mortals cannot summon a breeze to blow; we can simply be receptive to it. But we can miss its fluttering relief if we are not paying attention. Be mindful: we only recognize the Holy Spirit coming as an evening wind if we open the windows.

Valerie Schultz

Valerie Schultz is a freelance writer and award-winning essayist. She is author of the recently released book Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace (Liturgical Press).

Prayer for Good Speech

Gracious God, with only words
you created the universe and called it “good.”
Help me, then, to use my words well,
to create only life and give blessings this day.

You numbered the stars and called each one by name.
Let me cherish each person I meet
and speak their name with reverence.

You promised that your word is very near to us,
already in our mouths and in our hearts.
Give me your Spirit, and teach me what to say.
Stand guard over my mouth and temper my heart
when emotions race and words so easily cut.
Help me know when to speak up,
to be a cry for the poor and a voice in the desert,
and teach me the wisdom to know when to be silent.

Give me the grace to speak the simple words:
“Please” and “Thank you.” “Yes.” “I love you.”
And strengthen me to say the words that need to be said:
“I was wrong.” “I’m sorry.” “Forgive me.” “I forgive you.”
Let my “yes” be “yes,” my “no” mean “no,”
and my promises be kept.

Above all, may I remember that
even if I speak with the tongues of angels,
yet do not have love, I am simply making noise.
So let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you.

Lord, today, make me your word and open my lips, ✠*
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

—Diana Macalintal, adapted from *The Work of Your Hands*

**Make the Sign of the Cross on your lips.*

Eastertime Meal Prayers

Before Meals during the Easter Season

With glad and generous hearts all who believed took their meals in common, alleluia.


R7. Praising God, alleluia.

After Meals during the Easter Season

The disciples recognized the Lord, alleluia.

R7. In the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

—*Book of Blessings*



Seedtime Blessing

Heavenly Father,
you promised your servant, Noah,
that as long as the earth lasts,
seedtime and harvest shall not cease.
Faithful to your promise,
you give us a time to plant
and a time to harvest.
We ask you to bless our fields
and the crops we plant in them.
Preserve them from destruction,
defend them from harm,
and increase them for our well-being.
Grant that these crops,
the gift of your goodness,
may fill our needs on earth
and prepare us for the joys of heaven.
We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Fr. Michael Kwatera, OSB

Mother's Day Blessing

Holy God,
you compared your own love for your people
to the love of a mother for her children.

Look with kindness on our mother
who has shared in your creating love
by the gift of her children.

We thank you for the joys and sorrows of her life,
the giving and sharing,
and, especially for your love
that has formed us in your image.

Listen to our prayers
and bless the mother
who has nurtured and sustained us.
Give her patience in abundance
and let her find joy and satisfaction in all her work.

Glory and praise to you, loving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
and who reigns with you in the glory of heaven,
for ever and ever. Amen.

—*Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*



Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with you.

—2 Corinthians 13:11

Eastertide Prayer

God of Light,
you sent your Son into the darkness of our night,
and raised him to your glory;
not to abandon us to grief,
but to teach us to prepare in joy for his return.
We pray for all who have no hope,
that they may find it in the light of your Spirit,
according to the promise of Jesus, our Lord.

—*Proclaiming All Your Wonders*



*Veni, Sancte Spiritus,
et emitte caelitus
lucis tuae radium.*

Come, Holy Spirit,
send forth the heavenly
radiance of your light.

*Lava quod est sordidum,
riga quod est aridum,
sana quod est saucium*

Cleanse that which is unclean,
water that which is dry,
heal that which is wounded.



Prayer on Memorial Day

O God,
by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,
look kindly on your departed veterans who gave their
lives in the service of their country.
Grant that through the passion, death, and resurrection
of your Son
they may share in the joy of your heavenly kingdom
and rejoice in you with your saints forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Prayer at Night

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Briefly consider your day: What did I do well? What could I have done better? Whom did I offend? Whom did I help or encourage?

Pray the Act of Contrition or another prayer of sorrow and promise of amendment.

PSALM 4:2, 4-7, 9

O God of my righteousness, give answer when I call;
from anguish you released me, have mercy, hear my prayer!

Know that the LORD works wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me whenever I call out.

Tremble, do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still.
Offer a righteous sacrifice, and trust in the LORD.

“O that we might see better times” many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O LORD.

In peace I will lie down and fall asleep,
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

ANTIPHON

Protect us, Lord, while we are awake and safeguard us while we sleep, that we may keep watch with Christ and rest in peace.

CANTICLE OF SIMEON

Lord, now let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father . . .

MARIAN ANTIPHON (or another Marian hymn, pp. 360–61)

O Queen of the heavens, rejoice,
Alleluia!

For He whom as Virgin you bore,
Alleluia!

Arose from the tomb, as he said,
Alleluia!

Pray for us to God,
Alleluia!

BLESSING

May God grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.
May the divine assistance be always with us and with all
our loved ones. Amen.

Friday, May 1

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 96:7-13

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and power;
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of God's name.

Bring an offering and enter God's courts;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
O tremble before God, all the earth.

Say to the nations, "The LORD is king,"
who made firm the world in its place,
and who will judge the peoples in fairness.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad;
let the sea and all within it thunder praise.
Let the field and all it bears rejoice.

Then all the trees of the wood will shout for joy
at the presence of the LORD who comes;
God comes to judge the earth.
The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with faithfulness.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 45:4-6

For the sake of Jacob, my servant, / of Israel my chosen
one, / I have called you by name, / giving you a title,

though you do not know me. / I am the LORD, there is no other, / there is no God besides me. / It is I who arm you, though you do not know me, / so that all may know, from the rising of the sun / to its setting, that there is none besides me. / I am the LORD, there is no other.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The Lord declared: "This man, Paul, is a chosen instrument of mine."

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Beneficent God, you judge the world with righteousness. In faith we pray: **R7.** Just God, hear our prayer.

Accept our praise and gratitude for the graces and blessings you have given us. **R7.**

Help us to ensure dignity for workers and to protect the rights of those who labor. **R7.**

Inspire those who are discerning their vocation or direction for their lives. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God, the giver of every good gift, bless us with patience, prudence, and peace in our labors and give success to the work of our hands, through Jesus, son of Joseph. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Takashi Nagai

Mystic of Nagasaki (1908–1951)

On the morning of August 9, 1945, Dr. Takashi Nagai was working at the medical center in Nagasaki, Japan, when he saw a flash of blinding light, followed by darkness, and heard a crashing roar as his concrete building, and his world, collapsed around him. After escaping from the rubble, he joined the hospital staff in treating dazed and dying survivors. Only gradually did the extent of the destruction become clear. An atomic bomb had killed nearly 80,000 people.

In the days to follow, he witnessed scenes of horrifying suffering. Though his children survived, he found the charred remains of his wife in their home, a rosary clasped in the powdered bones of her hand. A devout Catholic, Nagai struggled to find in the cross some meaning to this event. He found it remarkable that by chance, Nagasaki, principal home of Japan's Catholic population, had been an alternate bombing site and that the pilot had fixed his target on the Urakami Cathedral.

The war would end on August 15, feast of the Assumption of Mary, to whom the cathedral was dedicated. In all this, Nagai saw the mysterious hand of Providence and believed Nagasaki had been chosen to bear witness to the cause of international peace.

Radiation sickness left him an invalid, and he spent his remaining years as a contemplative in a small hut near the cathedral ruins. He died on May 1, 1951, at the age of forty-three.

“Grant that Nagasaki may be the last atomic wilderness in the history of the world.”

—Dr. Takashi Nagai

The “Blessed Among Us” features are written by Robert Ellsberg, author of numerous books, including the best-selling *Blessed Among Us* (Liturgical Press).

Mass

Friday of the Third Week of Easter
 [St. Joseph the Worker, opt. memorial]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 5:12

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, / to receive power and divinity, / and wisdom and strength and honor, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
 that we, who have come to know
 the grace of the Lord's Resurrection,
 may, through the love of the Spirit,
 ourselves rise to newness of life.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

9:1-20

*This man is a chosen instrument of mine
 to carry my name before the Gentiles.*

Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could

see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, that he may regain his sight." But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and children of Israel, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name." So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and when he had eaten, he recovered his strength.

He stayed some days with the disciples in Damascus, and he began at once to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

117:1bc, 2

R⁷. (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. or: R⁷. Alleluia.

Praise the LORD, all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples! **R⁷.**

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever. **R⁷.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:56

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood,
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:52-59

My Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink.

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.” These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Crucified is risen from the dead / and has redeemed
us, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.

Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

So Begins the Process

In calling us to make the changes necessary if we are to progress toward a more abundant life, God does not always treat us with kid gloves. More often than we may suspect, shock therapy is the preferred means. Sometimes a seemingly accidental confluence of events demolishes the life we had. Yes, it is a tragedy. But God sometimes makes provision for us to create something new and beautiful.

And so begins the slow process of rebuilding, bringing into some tentative unity the scattered elements that remain.

Gradually we are being re-formed and, in a way perceived only later, transformed.

In an instant, the seemingly irresistible Saul was struck to the ground, blinded and reduced to dependence on others. After his encounter with the risen Lord, he had to be reborn and begin his life anew. This time under a new name. No wonder he needed to spend three years in Arabia to get his head around what he had experienced and what this meant for his own life (cf. Gal 1:13-18). Then, with equal energy, he took off in a direction exactly opposite to that in which his previous life had gone.

Not all respond to the challenge of conversion as positively. When Jesus revealed the dimensions of the new life at Capernaum, many demurred and left. It seemed safer to stay with what they already had. Although they had glimpsed infinity, they quietly closed the door and, saddened, walked away.

Fr. Michael Casey

Michael Casey, a Cistercian monk of Tarrawarra Abbey in Australia, is a well-known retreat master and lecturer, and the author of many books on spirituality, including The Road to Eternal Life and Balaam's Donkey.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 33:1-8

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you righteous;
for praise is fitting from the upright.

Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing songs to God.

O sing a song that is new;
play skillfully, with shouts of joy.

For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all God's works to be trusted.

The LORD loves justice and right;
God's faithful love fills the earth.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
by the breath of God's mouth, all their host.
As in a flask, God collects the waves of the ocean,
and stores up the depths of the sea.

Let all the earth fear the LORD,
all who live in the world show reverence.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:9-11

God] saved us and called us to a holy life, not according
to our works but according to his own design and the
grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but
now made manifest through the appearance of our savior

Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and apostle and teacher.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

If you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will have eternal life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Eternal and ever-living God, you are the praise of all who hope in you. In trust we pray: **R**̄. Make us your holy people, O God.

Help us to reverence the gift of life in ourselves, one another, and all creation. **R**̄.

Inspire Pope Francis and bishops in their prayer and labor for the transformation and healing of the Church. **R**̄.

Strengthen us to be ambassadors of reconciliation and hospitality. **R**̄.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us and bring us to share at last in the heavenly banquet with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph by the working of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Saturday, May 2

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 60:3-7, 13-14 (opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

O God, you have rejected us, and broken us.
You have been angry; come back to us.

You have made the earth quake, torn it open.
Repair what is shattered, for it sways.
You have inflicted hardships on your people,
made us drink a wine that dazed us.

For those who fear you, you gave the signal
to flee from the face of the bow.
With your right hand, grant salvation, and give answer,
that those whom you love may be free.

Give us aid against the foe,
for human help is vain.
With God we shall do bravely,
and God will trample down our foes.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE Genesis 2:4b-7

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—
there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the
field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon
the earth and there was no man to till the ground, but a

stream was welling up out of the earth and watering all the surface of the ground—then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The spirit gives life; the flesh is of no avail.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Living God, in company with your servant and bishop Athanasius, we humbly pray: **R**7. Let your Spirit be upon us, O God.

Nurture the gifts of wisdom, compassion, and love in Pope Francis, bishops, pastors, and catechists. **R**7.

Deepen in all people a sincere desire to care for the earth, and secure clean water and air for all people and creatures. **R**7.

Help us to ensure safety in the public sector and in places of worship and learning. **R**7.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with peace and strengthen us to live the Gospel in charity and truth, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Ade Bethune

Liturgical Artist (1914–2002)

In 1934 Ade Bethune, a nineteen-year-old art student in New York, was intrigued when friends told her about a new movement called the Catholic Worker that sought to relate the Gospel to social issues. When she saw their newspaper she was attracted by its message but found it visually drab. On her own initiative she sent a series of illustrations. One depicted Joseph and Mary being evicted from the inn in Bethlehem. Others depicted saints in modern clothes going about their everyday business. A few days later she visited the Worker headquarters and encountered Dorothy Day, who mistook her for a homeless woman seeking shelter. Shyly, she introduced herself: “I’m the girl who sent the pictures.” Immediately Day set her to work on illustrations of more saints, and Bethune saw a great program open for her.

In later years Bethune would redefine the character of modern religious art. She worked in virtually every medium. But whatever the medium, her vocation as an artist always served her religious vision. As Day put it, her work reflected “a sense of the sacramentality of life, the goodness of things.” It was a lesson she derived from the saints, who showed that there is a road to holiness in everything we do, provided we do it with love.

Bethune died on May 1, 2002, at the age of eighty-eight.

“The saints are Christ. In their heroic deeds shines Christ’s example, reflected and multiplied through time and space. Their death is his death; their love is his love, pure and selfless. Their works are his work of mercy and forgiveness. . . . Their fruits are love, peace, joy.”

—Ade Bethune

Mass

St. Athanasius, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Sirach 15:5

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, / and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding / and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who raised up the Bishop Saint Athanasius
as an outstanding champion of your Son's divinity,
mercifully grant,
that, rejoicing in his teaching and his protection,
we may never cease to grow in knowledge and love of you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

9:31-42

The Church was being built up, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit she grew in numbers.

The Church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. She was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit she grew in numbers.

As Peter was passing through every region, he went down to the holy ones living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed." He got up at

once. And all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated is Dorcas). She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving. Now during those days she fell sick and died, so after washing her, they laid her out in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, rise up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

R⁷. (12) How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? *or:* **R⁷.** Alleluia.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?

The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD. **R⁷.**

My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones. **R⁷.**

O LORD, I am your servant;
 I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
 you have loosed my bonds.
 To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
 and I will call upon the name of the LORD. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 6:63c, 68c

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
 you have the words of everlasting life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:60-69

To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Many of the disciples of Jesus who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, “Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.”

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer walked with him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, O Lord, upon the offerings we present to you
in commemoration of Saint Athanasius,
and may witnessing to your truth
bring salvation to those
who profess, as he did, an unblemished faith.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

1 Corinthians 3:11

No one can lay a foundation other than the one that is
there, / namely, Jesus Christ, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, we pray, almighty God,
that the true divinity of your Only Begotten Son,
which we firmly profess with Saint Athanasius,
may, through this Sacrament, ever give us life and
protection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Rising Always by God's Grace

It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail.

I saw a bright wheel spinning round and round up in the sky,
unbelievably fast. At the top of the wheel I saw a small white
bird having the hardest time staying on top of the speedy
wheel. Several times it seemed to slip down from the top.
Then it struggled back up again to reach the top. It kept at
this for some time, slipping down, rising again.

Then I saw a tall, beautiful mountain, and the wheel moved to rest above it. It kept turning, with the little bird clinging to it and persevering. When I came to myself and the trance was over, I thought about that gospel verse that tells us that the way that leads to life is narrow and hard. What indeed is this world if not a wheel going round and round?

Look at everything worldly. You won't find anything not subject to change, and change—by its turning—rolls its subjects from one state to another. One day, you're promoted, and the next, you're pink-slipped. In this state of changeableness, people who follow God and people who don't follow God walk the same wheel, but in different ways.

The good rise as long as they don't pursue temporal pleasures greedily. They're like the white bird of innocence rising on the wheel. Their virtues give them wings, but even they are sometimes driven down by the wheel's power, and yet God's grace always lets them rise to the top again.

But those who grab hold of that wheel meet disaster. Like the bird rising against the wheel, we must use temporal things with the greatest self-control and keep the wings of our virtue flapping in constant motion, always exercising them.

..... Elisabeth of Schönau, *Third Book of Visions*

Elisabeth of Schönau (ca. 1129–ca. 1164) was a German Benedictine mystic. Her writings include, among other things, three books recording her visions.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 92:2-7, 13-16

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your faithful love in the morning,
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lute and the harp,
with the sound of song on the lyre.

You have gladdened me, O LORD, by your deeds;
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.

O LORD, how great are your works!

How deep are your designs!

The senseless cannot know this,
and the fool cannot understand.

The righteous will flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the LORD is upright.
In God, my rock, there is no wrong.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Acts 20:7-12

On the first day of the week when we gathered to break bread, Paul spoke to them because he was going to leave on the next day, and he kept on speaking until midnight.

There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered, and a young man named Eutychus who was sitting on the window sill was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. Once overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and when he was picked up, he was dead. Paul went down, threw himself upon him, and said as he embraced him, "Don't be alarmed; there is life in him." Then he returned upstairs, broke the bread, and ate; after a long conversation that lasted until daybreak, he departed. And they took the boy away alive and were immeasurably comforted.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of our praise, you gladden us by your deeds and uphold us by your love. In faith we pray: **R7**. Let our hearts find joy in you, O God.

Enlighten us to know you in the reading of the Scriptures, the breaking of the bread, and the sharing of the cup. **R7**.

Let those whom you have called to follow you in the single vocation find support in their faith communities and the universal Church. **R7**.

Give lasting peace and fulfillment to those who have died with their hope fixed on you. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God animate our spirits to prefer nothing whatever to Christ and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.



D. Rubin OSB

Sunday, May 3

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 150

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

Alleluia!

Praise God in the holy temple;
praise the Lord in the mighty firmament.
Praise God for powerful deeds;
for boundless grandeur, praise God.

O praise the Lord with sound of trumpet;
give praise with lute and harp.
Praise God with timbrel and dance;
give praise with strings and pipes.

O praise God with resounding cymbals;
give praise with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:9-11

Go up onto a high mountain, / Zion, herald of good news! / Cry out at the top of your voice, / Jerusalem, herald of good news! / Cry out, do not fear! / Say to the cities of Judah: / Here is your God! / Here comes with power / the Lord GOD, / who rules by his strong arm; / Here is his

reward with him, / his recompense before him. / Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; / in his arms he gathers the lambs, / Carrying them in his bosom, / leading the ewes with care.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Good Shepherd, you heed us when we call to you. In confidence we pray: **R₇**. Lead us with care, O loving God.

Strengthen the faithful by your Spirit, and unite Christians as one body in Christ. **R₇**.

Call us by name, and strengthen us to do your will. **R₇**.

Grant safety and opportunity to those who are fleeing from danger or poverty. **R₇**.

Our Father . . .

May Christ our Shepherd lead us along paths of peace and grant us peace, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Mass

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 33 (32):5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; / by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:14a, 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt

generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. (1) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.** *or:* **R.** Alleluia.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul. **R.**

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage. **R.**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come. **R.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter 2:20b-25

You have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leav-

ing you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. *He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

I am the gate for the sheep.

Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come

in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 330)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, / who laid down his life for
his sheep / and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection

If We Would Just Stop

We spend most of our days going about the things we think we're supposed to do in order to get to the place we think we're supposed to go. We check off the accomplishments

along the way, assuming that with each item marked “done” we’re that much closer to success or happiness or whatever goal we’ve set for ourselves. But today’s readings remind us that the path is much simpler and, at the same time, much more challenging than what we’ve dreamed up.

Over and over, we hear that God is calling us, which is a comfort that comes with sacrifice. Following God’s call does not guarantee a life free of heartache or a life filled with riches or a life marked by ease. What it does guarantee is that no matter where that call takes us, we will not have to weather any of it alone. The Lord will shepherd us, seeking us out when we stray, pulling us back when we want to rush ahead, soothing our hearts and souls with a voice that is as familiar as our own breath—if we would just take the time to stop moving and doing and achieving and just listen for the One who has the answers to all the questions we’re asking.

We want to trust, to fall back into God’s arms and rest, but it’s so difficult because the world has told us that we’re the ones in control. Today, stop grasping and let go. Trust. Listen. You are called, chosen, beloved.

Mary DeTurrís Poust

Mary DeTurrís Poust is director of communications for the Diocese of Albany and the author of six books on Catholic spirituality and several books of Scripture reflections. Visit her website at www.NotStrictlySpiritual.com.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 141:1-5, 8-10

I have called to you, LORD; O hasten to help me!
Hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer be as incense before you,
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

Set, O LORD, a guard on my mouth;
keep watch at the door of my lips!
Do not turn my heart to things that are evil,
to wicked deeds with those who are sinners.

Never allow me to share in their feasting.
If someone righteous strikes me it is kindness;
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

To you my eyes are turned, O LORD, my Lord.
In you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me, keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Let the wicked together fall into their traps,
while I pursue my way unharmed.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 7:14b-17

These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“For this reason they stand before God’s throne / and worship him day and night in his temple. / The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. / They will not hunger or thirst anymore, / nor will the sun or any heat strike them. / For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them / and lead them to springs of life-giving water, / and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Christ calls his sheep by name and they follow him.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, you show mercy to the poor and the weak.
In trust we pray: **R7.** Hasten to help us, O God.

Strengthen those who suffer persecution for living and spreading the Gospel. **R7.**

Prosper the efforts of those who seek to care for and improve the environment. **R7.**

Show us how we may share our faith with young people and support the young in their search to follow Christ. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the God of love and peace abide in us and remain with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May 3–9

Fourth Week of Easter

Within the Word

Of Sheep and Shepherds

In a culture in which sheep and goats were widely raised for milk, wool, and meat, flocks and their keepers were natural and familiar references on which to draw. The Gospels on Sunday and Monday focus our attention on one of the favorite biblical passages related to shepherding. The text and images do not stand alone.

There is ubiquitous imagery in the Hebrew Bible that calls both God and civil leaders shepherds (e.g., David, in 2 Sam 5:2; God, in Ps 80:2; leaders of the people, in Jer 3:15).

The Gospel of Matthew gives us the separation of sheep and goats as an image of the last judgment (25:31-46). The goats and “lefties” get the wrong end of that one, in contrast to the righteous sheep on the right side. Elsewhere, Jesus has pity on the people who are like “sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34; Matt 9:36). For Matthew, the people of the house of Israel are Jesus’ sheep for whom his mission is intended (Matt 10:6; 15:24). Sheep are threatened by wolves, fall into pits, and get lost (Matt 10:16; 12:11-12; 18:11-12; Luke 15:4-6). In Revelation, the Lamb as image of Christ is a major character throughout the narrative. In 7:17, the Lamb will be the shepherd; how is that for irony?

The familiar reading from the Gospel of John that stretches through Sunday and Monday (10:1-18) should be seen as a unit in three parts. Verses 1-6 are a description of a well-kept sheepfold with a gatekeeper who knows who should be let in. Anyone who climbs over and comes in by way other than the gate is “a thief and a robber.” The docility of sheep and their familiarity with their trusted leader is well described. Then in

the second part, verses 7-10, we have the first “I am” statement of Jesus—not as shepherd, as we might expect, but as *gate*, the right means of access in and out of the sheepfold.

Not until the third part, at verse 11, does Jesus call himself the good shepherd, and this identification is responsible for the many visual depictions of Jesus as shepherd, from the catacombs of Rome and the mosaics of Ravenna to the present day. Jesus is often portrayed with a lamb over his shoulders (see Luke 15:5), a visual composition borrowed from images of Orpheus, or surrounded by happily grazing sheep. This is, of course, imaginative. The historical Jesus, as far as we know, never worked as a shepherd. He told stories about shepherds and compared himself to them.

The image of Jesus the shepherd is so strong in the Christian imagination that it takes a closer look to realize there is much more to Sunday and Monday’s Gospels. The disparagement of the uninvolved and cowardly hired shepherd (vv. 12-13) who leaves the defenseless sheep to the wolves has prompted much speculation about what kinds of deficient pastors John might have had in mind. The intriguing reference to “other sheep” belonging to Jesus (v. 16) prompts ecumenical speculation.

Both because of the assimilation of the shepherd to the person of Jesus and because of the reference to hired shepherds, our constant image of the shepherd remains an adult male. Yet anyone familiar with shepherding in traditional Mediterranean societies knows that men usually have other tasks, and the shepherding is often entrusted to children, both male and female, as soon as they are able. Perhaps loosening our mental images of who can be the “good shepherd” might help us loosen other images of shepherding in our contemporary sheepfold.

—Sr. Carolyn Osiek

Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, is Charles Fischer Professor of New Testament Emerita at Brite Divinity School and archivist for the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States-Canada Province.

Monday, May 4

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 8

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic
is your name through all the earth!

Your majesty is set above the heavens.
From the mouths of children and of babes
you fashioned praise to foil your enemy,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

When I see the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what are human beings that you keep them in mind,
mortal creatures that you care for them?

Yet you have made them little lower than the angels;
with glory and honor you crowned them,
gave them power over the works of your hands:
you put all things under their feet,

All of them, sheep and oxen,
yes, even the cattle of the fields,
birds of the air, and fish of the sea
that make their way through the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic
is your name through all the earth!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17:34-35a, 37

David told Saul: “Your servant used to tend his father’s sheep, and whenever a lion or bear came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth.”

David continued: “The same LORD who delivered me from the claws of the lion and the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul answered David, “Go! the LORD will be with you.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creating God, you fashion us in love and surround us with beauty. In hope we pray: **R7.** Good Shepherd, hear us.

Protect children from domestic abuse, community violence, and the lure of drugs. **R7.**

Grant safety on school campuses, and help us to end gun violence. **R7.**

Prosper your Church’s efforts to promote the protection and dignity of life in all stages, from conception to natural death. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God lead us beside cool waters and refresh us in peace, through Jesus the Good Shepherd. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Rachel Held Evans

Woman of Valor (1981–2019)

As she was being admitted to the hospital for mysterious ailments, Rachel Held Evans posted a final Tweet to her 170,000 followers, appealing to those who are “the praying type.” In typical fashion, she added a lament: “I’m totally going to miss [*Game of Thrones*]!” Two weeks later, on May 4, 2019, came the astonishing news of her sudden death at thirty-seven, leaving behind a beloved husband and two young children. In the days that followed, in the outpouring of grief-stricken tributes, it became evident just how deep an impact she had achieved in her short life.

Evans grew up in Dayton, Tennessee, home of the “Scope’s Monkey Trial” of 1925. That famous conflict between biblical faith and science loomed large in her lifelong struggle to reconcile the evangelical faith of her upbringing with her own questing mind and heart. “I have come to regard with some suspicion those who claim that the Bible never troubles them. I can only assume this means they haven’t actually read it.”

In a series of books and popular blog posts she became an outspoken advocate for Jesus’ spirit of “outrageous compassion,” inclusivity, and empowerment of marginalized voices. She challenged her own evangelical community’s compromises with white supremacy, misogyny, and rejection of LGBT people. While this generated harsh backlash, she became a source of inspiration and encouragement to countless people struggling to find their home in the Christian story, opening paths for Christians and seekers of all stripes to live their faith with greater courage, integrity, and joy.

“Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe but no one is comfortable.”

—Rachel Held Evans

Mass

Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Romans 6:9

Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more; /
death will no longer have dominion over him, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, perfect light of the blessed,
by whose gift we celebrate the paschal mysteries on earth,
bring us, we pray,
to rejoice in the full measure of your grace
for ages unending.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

11:1-18

God has then granted life-giving repentance to the Gentiles too.

The Apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles too had accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem the circumcised believers confronted him, saying, "You entered the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them." Peter began and explained it to them step by step, saying, "I was at prayer in the city of Joppa when in a trance I had a vision, something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered from the sky by its four corners, and it came to me. Looking intently into it, I observed and saw the four-legged animals of the earth, the wild beasts, the reptiles, and the birds of the sky. I also heard a voice say to me, 'Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat.' But I said, 'Certainly not, sir, because nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time

a voice from heaven answered, ‘What God has made clean, you are not to call profane.’ This happened three times, and then everything was drawn up again into the sky. Just then three men appeared at the house where we were, who had been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to accompany them without discriminating. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He related to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, saying, ‘Send someone to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter, who will speak words to you by which you and all your household will be saved.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them as it had upon us at the beginning, and I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift he gave to us when we came to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to be able to hinder God?” When they heard this, they stopped objecting and glorified God, saying, “God has then granted life-giving repentance to the Gentiles too.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

42:2-3; 43:3, 4

R. (see 3a) Athirst is my soul for the living God.

or: **R.** Alleluia.

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God? **R.**

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on

And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place. **R.**

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
 the God of my gladness and joy;
 Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
 O God, my God! **R**7.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
 I know my sheep, and mine know me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:11-18

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father." The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 20:19

Jesus stood in the midst of his disciples / and said to
them: Peace be with you, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Manner of Our Relationship

*I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows
me and I know the Father.*

That is, I shall belong to my sheep, and they will be joined to me, in the same way as the Father belongs to me, and I am joined to the Father. For in the manner in which the Lord and Father knows His only and truly Begotten Son, and the fruit of His Substance, and as the Son knows the Father, holding Him as True God, and as drawing His own Being from

Him, in the same way we, being assigned to Him as His, are said to be of His family, and are called His children . . . and we bear the name of the Son, and, because of Him that of the Father; since though Begotten of God, and truly God, He has become man, taking upon Himself our nature, if you except all sin.

Then how are we *the offspring of God*, and in what manner are we *partakers of the divine nature* [cf. 2 Pet. 1:4]? We possess a measure of His glory, not alone from this that Christ desired to receive us as His kindred, but also because the power of this relationship is manifest in us. For though the Word of God is divine by nature, even in our flesh, and though He remains God by nature, we are His kindred because He has taken our flesh. Similar therefore is the manner of our relationship. For as He belongs to the Father, and because of Their identity of nature the Father is joined to Him, so we also in that He has become man are regarded as belonging to Him, and He in a like manner is united to us.

St. Cyril of Alexandria, *The Good Shepherd*

Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444) is a Doctor of the Church and one of the most important theologians of the early Church. He insisted that there is an inseparable unity between the divine and human natures of Christ, and that through our kinship with Christ we become children of God.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 146:1-2, 5-10

Alleluia!

My soul, give praise to the LORD;
I will praise the LORD all my life,
sing praise to my God while I live.

Blessed the one who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the LORD our God,
who made the heavens and the earth,
the seas and all they contain,

Who preserves fidelity forever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
who furnishes bread to the hungry;
the LORD who sets prisoners free,
the LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the LORD who loves the righteous,
the LORD who protects the stranger
and upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, from age to age.

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:4-7

When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to human beings in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this I became a minister by the gift of God's grace that was granted me in accord with the exercise of his power.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

God has granted life-giving repentance to the Gentiles too.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of all grace and blessing, you favor us by your love and give us peace. In faith we pray: **R7**. God, come to our aid.

You preserve fidelity forever: uphold those who suffer grief, doubt, or loss of faith. **R7**.

You grant justice for the oppressed: disclose unjust practices in lands ruled by corruption. **R7**.

You furnish bread for the hungry: unite people of all faith traditions in efforts to address world hunger. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God animate us to proclaim the Gospel and minister to one another out of love for Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday, May 5

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 119:1-8

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.

They never do anything evil,
but walk in God's ways.
You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept.

May my ways be firm
in keeping your statutes.
Then I shall not be put to shame
as I fix my eyes on all your commands.

I will thank you with an upright heart,
as I learn your righteous judgments.
I will keep your statutes;
do not ever forsake me.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 2:14-16

Sing and rejoice, daughter Zion! Now, I am coming to dwell in your midst—oracle of the LORD. Many nations

will bind themselves to the LORD on that day. They will be my people, and I will dwell in your midst. Then you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion of the holy land, and the LORD will again choose Jerusalem.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

A great number who believed turned to the Lord.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Good Shepherd, you call us and enfold us in your everlasting care. Secure in your love, we pray: **R7**. Teach us your ways, O God.

Help us to foster reverence, understanding, and friendship among Christians, Muslims, and Jews. **R7**.

Purge countries of corruption and abuse of power. **R7**.

Inspire us to treat immigrants, refugees, and migrants with love and respect. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God show us mercy and kindness and grant us salvation, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Jutta

Widow (ca. 1200–1260)

St. Jutta was born in Thuringia, in Germany. At the age of fifteen she married a nobleman, with whom she enjoyed a happy marriage. Inspired by the example of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, a Thuringian princess who had renounced her royal station to embrace poverty as a Franciscan tertiary, Jutta attempted to conform her life, and that of her family, to the principles of the Gospel: charity, service, and a spirit of poverty.

Her husband died while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Jutta to raise her children alone. When, over time, each one of them entered religious life, she was free to pursue her heart's desire. After giving away all her property to the poor, she donned a simple dress and became a wandering pilgrim. Though many were moved by her piety and the austerity she had exchanged for her previous estate, others greeted her conduct with derision.

Jutta liked to say there were three things that brought one nearer to God: painful illness, exile from home, and voluntary poverty. She experienced all three. Eventually she made her way to a distant corner of Prussia where she became a Third Order Franciscan and took up residence as a solitary hermit. Many visitors found a path to her home, whether seeking nursing care, consolation in their troubles, or spiritual counsel.

Jutta died at the age of sixty and was later embraced as a patroness of Prussia.

“All my treasures are yours, and yours are mine.”

—Message of Christ, as received by St. Jutta

Mass

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 19:7, 6

Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to God, / for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, celebrating the mysteries of the Lord's Resurrection,
we may merit to receive the joy of our redemption.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

11:19-26

*They began speaking to the Greeks as well,
proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

Those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch.

For a whole year they met with the Church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7

R. (117:1a) All you nations, praise the Lord.

or: **R.** Alleluia.

His foundation upon the holy mountains

the LORD loves:

The gates of Zion,

more than any dwelling of Jacob.

Glorious things are said of you,

O city of God! **R.**

I tell of Egypt and Babylon

among those who know the LORD;

Of Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia:

“This man was born there.”

And of Zion they shall say:

“One and all were born in her;

And he who has established her

is the Most High LORD.” **R.**

They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled:

“This man was born there.”

And all shall sing, in their festive dance:

“My home is within you.” **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:22-30

The Father and I are one.

The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Luke 24:46, 26

The Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, / and so
enter into his glory, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear, O Lord, our prayers,
that this most holy exchange,
by which you have redeemed us,
may bring your help in this present life
and ensure for us eternal gladness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Can You Handle It?

Every now and then, I perform magic tricks for my young children. Children are undoubtedly the best audience for amateur magicians! My favorite trick: to pull a coin from behind their ears. They love it.

My nine-year-old son asked me recently how I did it. At first, I told him that magicians do not reveal their secrets. But then I smiled and explained the trick. He remained quiet for a moment, then looked at me somewhat bewildered and said, “Really, Papa, how do you do it?”

He heard my explanation, but found it wanting. Perhaps he was baffled by the simplicity of the answer. Maybe he wanted something more exciting that would better satisfy his wondering imagination.

Something similar occurs in today’s Gospel. People asked Jesus, “‘How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you and you do not believe.’” They did not seem ready to handle such a simple, yet profound answer.

I do not blame them. Neither do I blame people today who struggle to understand the resurrection and all the mysteries of the Christian faith. It takes major discernment. It takes humility. Most importantly, it takes listening.

A common human temptation is to try to fit the greatness of God’s mystery into our limited categories. We want God’s mystery to match our whims and wondering imaginations. Yet the message today is different: we must listen first. “My sheep hear my voice,” says the Lord. To handle what he reveals, we must listen attentively.

Hosffman Ospino

Hosffman Ospino is associate professor of theology and education at Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 26:1-8

Give judgment for me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity.
I have trusted in the LORD; I have not wavered.

Examine me, LORD, and try me.
O test my heart and my mind.
Your faithful love is before my eyes,
and I walk according to your truth.

I never take my seat with liars,
and with hypocrites I shall not go.
I hate the evildoer's company;
I will not take my seat with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence
and take my place around your altar,
singing a song of thanksgiving,
recounting all your wonders.
O LORD, I love the house where you dwell,
the place where your glory abides.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 John 1:1-4

What was from the beginning, / what we have heard, /
what we have seen with our eyes, / what we looked
upon / and touched with our hands / concerns the Word of
life— / for the life was made visible; / we have seen it and
testify to it / and proclaim to you the eternal life / that was

with the Father and was made visible to us— / what we have seen and heard / we proclaim now to you, / so that you too may have fellowship with us; / for our fellowship is with the Father / and with his Son, Jesus Christ. / We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I give you eternal life and you shall never perish.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Faithful God, your love and truth attend us always. In trust we pray: **R7**. Inscribe your law upon our hearts, O God.

Give patience, faith, and love to parents, guardians, and all who are entrusted with care for the young. **R7**.

Remove all seeds of bitterness, fear, and prejudice from our minds. **R7**.

Imbue missionaries and all who proclaim your word with good zeal and truthful speech. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

Grant eternal joy to those who have died, and make us one with the communion of saints, through Jesus our Shepherd. Amen.

Wednesday, May 6

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 41:2-6, 11-13

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

Blessed are they who have concern for the poor.
In time of trouble, the LORD will rescue them.

The LORD will guard them, preserve their life,
and make them blessed in the land,
not give them up to the will of their foes.

The LORD will help them on their bed of pain;
in their sickness, you tend even to their bedding.

As for me, I said, "LORD, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you."
My foes speak evil against me and wonder,
how long before I die and my name is forgotten?

But you, O LORD, have mercy on me.
Raise me up and I will repay them.
By this I know your favor:
that my foes do not triumph over me.
In my integrity you have upheld me,
and have set me in your presence forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Wisdom 7:26, 27b-30

Wisdom] is the reflection of eternal light, / the spotless
mirror of the power of God, / the image of his good-
ness. / Passing into holy souls from age to age, / she produces

friends of God and prophets. / For God loves nothing so much as the one who dwells with Wisdom. / For she is fairer than the sun / and surpasses every constellation of the stars. / Compared to light, she is found more radiant; / though night supplants light, / wickedness does not prevail over Wisdom.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Lover of the poor, your mercy extends to the weak and the sinner. In hope we pray: **R7.** Bless us with peace, O God.

Bring an end to the production of chemical and nuclear weapons. **R7.**

Guard the homeless, and prosper efforts to help them find lasting shelter. **R7.**

Strengthen those who care for the sick and the elderly. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God show us mercy and favor and animate our spirits in the joy of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed Mary Catherine of Cairo

Missionary (1813–1887)

Constanza Troiani was born in Italy in 1813. At the age of six, following her mother's death, she was entrusted to the Franciscan Sisters of Ferentino. At sixteen, in this convent in which she was raised, she was accepted as a novice, taking the name Sr. Mary Catherine of St. Rose of Viterbo.

Many years passed. One day a visiting priest, just back from Egypt, spoke of the need for sisters in Cairo. Mary Catherine, who had always yearned to be a missionary, won permission from her convent to accept this challenge and with five other sisters departed for Cairo. Once there—the first Italian sisters in Egypt—they set about learning Arabic and embarked on care for the poor, opening an orphanage that welcomed children of all races and religious backgrounds.

Yet her convent had considered this a temporary mission, and when the sisters were instructed to return, they faced a dilemma. Choosing to sever ties with their congregation, they received permission from Rome to establish a new congregation: the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Egypt. Along with their previous work, Mother Mary Catherine, known widely as “Mother of the Poor,” fearlessly took up the antislavery cause. Asked by a sister during an outbreak of cholera whether anything frightened her, she replied, “My dear, only a lack of faith frightens me.”

Her passing, on May 6, 1887, was mourned throughout Cairo by Christians and Muslims alike. She was beatified in 1985.

“The will of God is my perpetual hunger, my thirst, and my yearning.”

—Blessed Mary Catherine of Cairo

Mass

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 18 (17):50; 22 (21):23

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; / I will tell of your name to my kin, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, life of the faithful,
glory of the humble, blessedness of the just,
listen kindly to the prayers
of those who call on you,
that they who thirst for what you generously promise
may always have their fill of your plenty.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

12:24–13:5a

Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul.

The word of God continued to spread and grow.

After Barnabas and Saul completed their relief mission, they returned to Jerusalem, taking with them John, who is called Mark.

Now there were in the Church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.

So they, sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Se-leucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8

R. (4) O God, let all the nations praise you!

or: R. Alleluia.

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation. **R.**

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide. **R.**

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!

May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:44-50

I came into the world as light.

Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me be-lieves not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my

words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this
sacrifice

have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,

that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. John 15:16, 19

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, / and
have appointed you to go out and bear fruit, / fruit that
will last, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

In the Shelter of the Son's Heart

His own Son is the Father's gift to us, and we must creep into that Son's welcoming heart, content to shelter in his holiness, his goodness, his wisdom.

There is no place for human pride in the presence of God.

We have no holiness, goodness or wisdom of our own. So to be made consciously aware that we are spiritually inadequate, faulty, wretched—that we fail and sin—is a precious grace.

Pride would make us angry with ourselves, or discouraged. Or on the other hand it might come into play further back and not allow us to become aware of our failings. It would provide us with the knack of sweeping them under the carpet, so we didn't have to face them.

Christian humility quietly faces up to all this without anger or discouragement. It calls to mind that there is One who always did his Father's will; who offers the Father perfect love and worship. And this One is the Father's gift to us.

From the shelter of the Son's heart we go on trying, with him, to do always what pleases the Father; but at the same time never wanting to feel we are becoming holy and good, without spot or wrinkle.

Never are we more truly in Christ Jesus than when, deeply conscious of our sinfulness, we peacefully rest in the heart of our Redeemer—the Risen One.

Sr. Ruth Burrows, *Living Love*

Sr. Ruth Burrows, a Carmelite nun at Quidenham Monastery in Norfolk, England, is the author of several best-selling books on spirituality and prayer.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 148:1, 7-13

Alleluia!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
sea creatures and all ocean depths,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that fulfill the command;

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
beasts, both wild and tame,
creeping things and birds on the wing;

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,
sovereigns and all judges of the earth,
young men and maidens as well,
the old and the young together.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for God's name alone is exalted,
whose splendor rises above heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:22-25

█ saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God
almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or

moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Whoever sees me sees the one who sent me.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of heaven and earth, your name is exalted above all. In faith we pray: **R7.** God, in your wisdom, hear our prayer.

Establish your Church in Christ, lessen our busyness, and help us to find our treasure in that which lasts forever. **R7.**

Bless the work of the United Nations, and prosper efforts to promote peace and goodwill among all people. **R7.**

Protect military troops and those who work in the midst of war and strife. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with the light of glory and bring us to share in the life of the Risen Lord. Amen.

Thursday, May 7

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 16:5-11

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

O LORD, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who secure my destiny
Pleasant places are marked out for me:
a fair heritage indeed is my lot!

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the LORD before me always;
with God at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
nor let your holy one see corruption.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand, bliss forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days, at that time, I will make

a just shoot spring up for David; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Jerusalem shall dwell safely; this is the name they shall call her: “The LORD our justice.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

God has fulfilled the promise to bring a savior from the house of David.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Beneficent God, you counsel us in love and direct our hearts according to your truth. In hope we pray: **R7.** Give us joy in your presence, O God.

Open our hearts to recognize and receive Christ in one another. **R7.**

Strengthen the bonds of love and support in faith communities. **R7.**

Bring an end to all wars, and help us to show appreciation to veterans and members of the military. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God lead us along pathways of peace and guard us in love, through Jesus our redeemer. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Jean Vanier

Founder, L'Arche (1928–2019)

Jean Vanier was raised in one of the most distinguished families in Canada, and from an early age he imbibed his parents' deep faith and commitment to service. At thirteen, with his father's permission, he crossed the Atlantic during World War II to attend the Royal Naval College. In 1950 he resigned his Naval commission feeling it was time to devote himself to the work of peace. After considering the priesthood he instead pursued a doctorate in philosophy.

A great turning point came in 1963, when through the influence of a French Dominican priest, he became aware of the difficult life of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, often institutionalized and deprived of respect. Responding to a deep sense of calling from God, he quit his teaching position, bought a house in a French village, and invited two disabled men to share his home. After years of action and the life of the mind, Vanier said, "I began to live from my heart." In time others followed, those with disabilities as well as able assistants, and thus began the L'Arche Community—a name taken from the story of Noah's ark.

L'Arche ultimately spread to 154 communities in 38 countries, reflecting Vanier's insight that "we are healed by the poor and the weak . . . transformed by them if we enter into relationship with them. . . . They call us together, in unity and peace, to build community."

Vanier became a global spokesman for the values of community, compassion, and respect for life. He died on May 7, 2019, at the age of ninety.

"Change the world, with love, one heart at a time."

—Jean Vanier

Mass

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 68 (67):8-9, 20

O God, when you went forth before your people, /
marching with them and living among them, / the earth
trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who restore human nature
to yet greater dignity than at its beginnings,
look upon the amazing mystery of your loving kindness,
and in those you have chosen to make new
through the wonder of rebirth
may you preserve the gifts
of your enduring grace and blessing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

13:13-25

*From this man's descendants God, according to his promise,
has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.*

From Paphos, Paul and his companions set sail and arrived at Perga in Pamphylia. But John left them and returned to Jerusalem. They continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered into the synagogue and took their seats. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the synagogue officials sent word to them, "My brothers, if one of you has a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

So Paul got up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Fellow children of Israel and you others who are God-fearing,

listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out, and for about forty years he put up with them in the desert. When he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance at the end of about four hundred and fifty years. After these things he provided judges up to Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king. God gave them Saul, son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. Then he removed him and raised up David as their king; of him he testified, *I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.* From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27

R. (2) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

or: **R.** Alleluia.

The favors of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your
faithfulness.

For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **R.**

"I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,
That my hand may be always with him,
and that my arm may make him strong." **R.**

“My faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him,
and through my name shall his horn be exalted.
He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.’” **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Revelation 1:5ab

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead,
you have loved us and freed us from our sins by your Blood.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 13:16-20

Whoever receives the one I send receives me.

When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: “Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, *The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.* From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, / even to the end of the age,
alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life
in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Questions of Identity

We learned to write our names when we were in kindergarten, if not earlier. But when did we learn *who* we were?

The readings today tease out this question. As Paul says in Acts, John the Baptist knew that he was not the Messiah and that Jesus was. In the Gospel, Jesus asserts unequivocally—"I AM," a powerful statement of selfhood, reaching all the way back to God's self-expression in the burning bush account in Exodus.

Questions of identity can sound abstract and esoteric. And yet, a sense of identity is essential for any meaningful life. So how do we come to self-awareness? How do we really get to know ourselves? Or more concretely, how do we keep learning who we are . . . and who we are not?

The answer may be found elsewhere, when John the Baptist, perhaps in a moment of self-doubt, sends disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the One who is to come?" Jesus re-

sponds simply: “Tell John what you see. The lame walk, the hungry are fed, the poor hear the good news” (see Matt 11:2-5). In other words, what do people see when they look at my life? Or what don’t they see?

We are not the same persons we were in kindergarten. We have grown, changed many times over, following ever more faithfully the God who continues to draw us. Perhaps the important question is not *who am I?* But rather, in the ever-transforming grace of God, *who am I becoming?* And this will be determined by our response to two challenging questions: *Who do I love? What do I care about?*

Sr. Pat Kozak

Pat Kozak, CSJ, is a process facilitator and consultant for religious congregations across the United States and Canada.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 68:5-7, 20-21, 36

O sing to God; make music to God's name.
Extol the One who rides on the clouds,
whose name is the LORD, in whose presence we exult.

Father of orphans, defender of widows:
such is God in the holy place.

God gives the desolate a home to dwell in,
and leads the prisoners forth into prosperity,
while rebels must dwell in a parched land.

Day after day, may the Lord be blest
who bears our burdens; God is our savior.
This God of ours is a God who saves.
The LORD our Lord provides an escape from death.

Awesome are you, O God, in your holy place,
You who are the God of Israel.
You give strength and power to your people.
Blest be God!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:2-7

Let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you fall upon me." For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encourage-

ment of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Whoever receives the one I send receives me.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Saving God, you protect us from evil and free us from the sting of death. In Jesus' name we pray: **R7**. Help us, O God.

For those who experience grief, deep loneliness, or grave loss, we pray: **R7**.

For those who need affordable health care and housing, we pray: **R7**.

For those who suffer physical, emotional, or financial violation, we pray: **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with peace and expand our hearts in faith, hope, and love, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Friday, May 8

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 69:17-19, 31-35

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

LORD, answer, for your love is kind;
in your abundant compassion, turn towards me.
Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer me quickly, for I am in distress.
Come close to my soul and redeem me;
ransom me because of my foes.

Then I will praise God's name with a song;
I will glorify the Lord with thanksgiving:
a gift pleasing the LORD more than oxen,
more than a bull with horns and hooves.

The poor when they see it will be glad,
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the LORD attends the needy,
and does not spurn those in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give praise to God,
the seas and everything that moves in them.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Wisdom 2:16b-20

The wicked said:] “He calls blest the destiny of the righteous / and boasts that God is his Father. / Let us see whether his words be true; / let us find out what will happen to him in the end. / For if the righteous one is the son of

God, God will help him / and deliver him from the hand of his foes. / With violence and torture let us put him to the test / that we may have proof of his gentleness / and try his patience. / Let us condemn him to a shameful death; / for according to his own words, God will take care of him.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

God raised Jesus from the dead and called him his beloved Son.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Compassionate God of salvation, you draw near to those who call on you in faith. With trust in you we pray:

R. Show us the way to you, O God.

Prosper efforts to reduce poverty and economic exploitation. **R.**

Inspire our leaders to work together for the good of all. **R.**

Grant a change of heart to those who persecute, bully, or seek to harm others. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May the joys of Easter sustain us in times of trial, that we may share in the life of Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Mother Mary Ignatius Hayes

Franciscan (1823–1894)

Elizabeth Hayes, the daughter of an Anglican priest, followed a circuitous spiritual journey. Starting out in an Anglican religious community in Oxford, she converted to Catholicism and later joined a Franciscan community in Greenwich. Aside from the traditional three religious vows, she took a fourth—to make herself available to the needs of mission. Her subsequent journey led her to Jamaica, then France, and finally to Belle Prairie, Minnesota, at that time a remote outpost. Operating out of a log cabin with a small group of sisters she formed the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

They faced enormous hurdles. At one point Mother Mary Ignatius Hayes, as she was now known, traveled to Italy, hoping to find other Franciscans willing to join her in the prairie. She returned empty-handed. But eventually her community grew, and she decided it was time to spread forth—this time to serve the African American community in the South. In 1879 she established a new community in Georgia, providing education to the children of recently freed slaves.

The next year she traveled to Rome for an audience with Pope Leo XIII. He persuaded her to open a novitiate in Rome. She complied, though it meant she would never return to the United States. She died on May 6, 1894.

“The greatest miracle is myself, that I should be a Catholic, a religious, a Franciscan. Yet, I am so weak bodily, so sensitive mentally, that left to myself a moment I should not bear up against the least cross.”

—Mother Mary Ignatius Hayes

Mass

Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 5:9-10

You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood, / from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, / and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, author of our freedom and of our salvation, listen to the voice of our pleading and grant that those you have redeemed by the shedding of your Son's Blood may have life through you and, under your protection, rejoice for ever unharmed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

13:26-33

God has fulfilled his promise by raising Jesus from the dead.

When Paul came to Antioch in Pisidia, he said in the synagogue: "My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God

raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our fathers he has brought to fulfillment for us, their children, by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second psalm, *You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.*"
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab

R. (7bc) *You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.*

or: R. Alleluia.

"I myself have set up my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
this day I have begotten you." **R.**

"Ask of me and I will give you
the nations for an inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
You shall rule them with an iron rod;
you shall shatter them like an earthen dish." **R.**

And now, O kings, give heed;
take warning, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice before him;
with trembling rejoice. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:6

I am the way and the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father except through me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

I am the way and the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your family,
that under your protective care
they may never lose what they have received,
but attain the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Romans 4:25

Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions /
and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray,
those whom you have saved by your kindness,
that, redeemed by the Passion of your Son,
they may rejoice in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection

Preparing Places

A few months back a local newspaper reporter walked respectfully toward the little tent city that had been haphazardly pitched under an urban expressway. He sat on his haunches and began to listen to the sad stories of older Vietnam veterans who lived in its shadows, still haunted by the nightmares which had long visited the soldiers who had served in those deadly jungles. For some, drugs or alcohol had become the only available relief. Struck by the tragedy of it all, the reporter gradually worked with city authorities to provide a fresh start for those who had lost their health and well-being to this terrible war. Several tiny cottages, sufficiently sturdy to protect from elements of summer and winter, were built on newly cleared central city lots and given to these champions.

Elsewhere in town new parents were decorating cribs and painting walls for the babies they anticipated welcoming any day. Restless teenagers were finally given a room of their own for young adult privacy. In a few suburbs private “apartment” space was carved out of family homes when Grandma’s fragile health made movement back with the kids seem most practical.

Every day in communities across the country, new homes are given to people in need. Whenever it happens the generous benefactors are like the Risen Lord who once promised to leave his faithful disciples only to start a new housing development in the Next Age for them. It’s God’s Urban Renewal Plan for everyone.

Bishop Richard J. Sklba

Richard J. Sklba, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Milwaukee, is author of Fire Starters: Igniting the Holy in the Weekday Homily and Easter Fire: Fire Starters for the Easter Weekday Homily.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 22:2-12

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you far from saving me,
so far from my words of anguish?
O my God, I call by day and you do not answer;
I call by night and I find no relief.

Yet you, O God, are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you set them free.
When they cried to you, they escaped;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, not even human,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
All who see me deride me;
they curl their lips, they shake their heads:
“You trusted in the LORD, may you now be saved,
yes, released, for in you God delights.”

Yes, it was you who took me from the womb,
kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
To you I was committed from birth;
from my mother’s womb, you have been my God.
Stay not far from me;
trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

James 1:16-18

Do not be deceived, my beloved . . . : all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I am the way and the truth and the life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

All-merciful and ever-living God, you give us breath and promise us eternal life. In hope we pray: **R**̄. Give light to our eyes, O God.

Relieve the suffering of those who experience depression, anxiety, or confusion. **R**̄.

Restore life in those who suffer betrayal, physical diminishment, or chronic pain. **R**̄.

Renew hope in those who struggle to believe, are haunted by failure, or face trials alone. **R**̄.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with grateful hearts and hopeful spirits, through Jesus who is our way, our truth, and our life.
Amen.

Saturday, May 9

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 121

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will keep your foot from stumbling.
Your guard will never slumber.
No, the guardian of Israel
neither sleeps nor slumbers.

The LORD your guard, the LORD your shade
at your right hand.
By day the sun shall not smite you,
nor the moon in the night.

The LORD will guard you from evil,
will guard your soul.
The LORD will guard your going and coming,
both now and forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 29:17-18

I know, my God, that you put hearts to the test and that you take pleasure in integrity. With a whole heart I have willingly given all these things, and now with joy I have seen your people here present also giving to you generously.

LORD, God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep such thoughts in the hearts and minds of your people forever, and direct their hearts toward you.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The Gentiles rejoiced in the word of the Lord.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Saving God, you show us the path of life and give us unending joy in your presence forever. In hope we pray:

R⁷. Be with us, O God.

Anoint our hearts with charity and respect for all people. R⁷.

Bless graduates, and favor them with opportunities for service according to their gifts. R⁷.

Strengthen and heal those who endure long illness or treatment for disease. R⁷.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us, protect us from evil, and fill our hearts with peace, through Jesus our hope. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Pachomius

Abbot (ca. 292–ca. 346)

St. Pachomius is widely credited as the founder of cenobitic monasticism—that form of monasticism centered on community life rather than on solitary asceticism. Born in Egypt to pagan parents, he was drafted into the Roman army. During this service he came into contact with Christians, and upon his demobilization he sought to be baptized. For some years—like his contemporary St. Antony—he lived a solitary life of extreme asceticism in the desert. Eventually, however, he heard an angelic voice instruct him to gather other monks under a common rule, which he himself devised. He presided over the community as “Abba,” or father—the origin of the monastic abbot.

Pachomius came to organize nine monasteries, including three for women. Their life combined common prayer interspersed with private recitation of the psalms and manual labor. Although he continued to practice strenuous asceticism—eating only one meal a day and never reclining to sleep—Pachomius modulated his Rule to the gifts and health of his monks. Nevertheless, his Rule stands out for its fantastically exact instructions on virtually every aspect of daily monastic life.

Pachomius died of plague around 346.

“If it is stated that a brother lies or hates someone, or it is proved that he is disobedient, that he is given to telling jokes more than what is convenient . . . the father of the monastery will judge and punish him according to the gravity of the sin he has committed.”

Mass

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. 1 Peter 2:9

O chosen people, proclaim the mighty works of him / who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who in the celebration of Easter graciously give to the world

the healing of heavenly remedies,
show benevolence to your Church,
that our present observance
may benefit us for eternal life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

13:44-52

We now turn to the Gentiles.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, *I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.*"

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, how-

ever, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

R. (3cd) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. *or: R.* Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm. **R.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:31b-32

If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:7-14

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to Jesus, “Master, show

us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 17:24

Father, I wish that, where I am, / those you gave me may
also be with me, / that they may see the glory that you
gave me, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Creative Tension

[The disciples] had been with Jesus for a long period of basic training in a new spirituality, the like of which they'd never experienced before. Their habits, their assumptions, their theology, and even their desires were being transformed. And that's the thing: when one's desires are no longer driven by superficial, culture-bound, itchy wants-of-the-moment, when they've become deeply aligned with the divine Spirit, who moves us gently and persistently toward the persons we were created to be, our sense of what we "need" will be defined by the desires that are rooted in our deepest purposes.

"O, reason not the need!" King Lear cries when his cruel daughter insists he doesn't need his retinue of servants. "Allow not nature more than nature needs, / man's life is cheap as beast's." In other words—and Lear makes a good point—to grow our humanity, rejoice in life, be fully ourselves, we need something more than bare necessity. We need the extra wine at the wedding in Cana. We need the twelve extra baskets of bread. . . .

The simplicity of Jesus (the Son of Man, who had "nowhere to lay his head") and the abundance of God (the One whom poet Robinson Jeffers described as being inclined to "fling rainbows over the rain") remind us to hold in lively creative tension the needs and desires that make us human. They remind us to recognize that even in deprivation, without being glib about the horrors humans may endure, we have access to what we need, if we ask, and that God's will for us does and will finally far exceed what we can imagine asking.

—Marilyn McEntyre, *Word by Word: A Daily Spiritual Practice*

Marilyn McEntyre is author of numerous books on language and faith, including Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies and Make a List: How a Simple Practice Can Change Our Lives and Open Our Hearts.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 48:9-15

As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of our God,
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
which God establishes forever.

Your faithful love, O God,
we ponder in your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with saving justice.
Mount Zion rejoices.
The daughters of Judah rejoice
at the sight of your judgments.

Walk through Zion, walk all around her;
count the number of her towers.
Consider all her ramparts;
examine her castles,

That you may tell the next generation
that such is our God,
Our God forever and always,
who will guide us forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:19-21

It is written: / “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, /
and the learning of the learned I will set aside.” / Where

is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

If you know me, you will also know the Father.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of our ancestors, your faithful love outlasts the heavens. In hope we pray: **R7.** Guide us forever, O God.

Give us courage to be in solidarity with those who need assistance or suffer oppression. **R7.**

Deepen in your Church the gifts of charity and prayer. **R7.**

Lead young people to make wise and healthy choices for the good of the world. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with wisdom and love, through Jesus our hope. Amen.



EGO VERI
SUM TASET
VIA VITA
†

Sunday, May 10

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 118:1-7, 28-29

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

Give thanks to the LORD, who is good,
whose faithful love endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
“God’s faithful love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,
“God’s faithful love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,
“God’s faithful love endures forever.”

I called to the LORD in my distress;
the LORD has answered and freed me.
The LORD is at my side; I do not fear.
What can anyone do against me?
The LORD is at my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on my foes.

You are my God, I thank you.
My God, I praise you.
Give thanks to the LORD, who is good,
whose faithful love endures forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-3a

Now, thus says the LORD, / who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: / Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; / I have called you by name: you are mine. / When you pass through waters, I will be with you; / through rivers, you shall not be swept away. / When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, / nor will flames consume you. / For I, the LORD, am your God, / the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Do not let your hearts be troubled; I am the way.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Faithful God, your love endures forever. We praise you and pray: **R7.** God of the covenant, hear our prayer.

Help your Church to be rooted more deeply in Christ and to bear much fruit for the good of all. **R7.**

Inspire us to support the newly baptized and to encourage one another with the assurances of faith. **R7.**

Favor and bless mothers and all who show a mother's love. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God fill our hearts with the joy and peace of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Mass

Fifth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 98 (97):1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord, / for he has worked wonders; / in the sight of the nations / he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

6:1-7

They chose seven men filled with the Spirit.

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip,

Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. *or: R.* Alleluia.

Exult, you just, in the LORD;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises. **R.**

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. **R.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
to deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine. **R.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: / *Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, / a cornerstone, chosen and*

precious, / and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. / Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: / The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone, / and / A stone that will make people stumble, / and a rock that will make them fall. / They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12

I am the way and the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not

know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 330)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice

have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray,

that, as we have come to know your truth,

we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. John 15:1, 5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. / Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Mystery Within

“They’re cute at this stage, aren’t they?” the priest observed as the family gathered around their newly baptized infant. He added: “Then they turn into us.” Laughter ensued, but wincingly. This perfect child would one day stand with us, in all our remarkable, notorious complexity.

Behold the mystery! Babies become business owners, ball players, bricklayers, and bartenders in the unfolding of years. All of life’s possibilities are contained in the soft flesh and flailing arms, the slobbery toothless grin of the newcomer to this world. A thousand factors will serve to restrain or encourage the path this pioneer takes. Words spoken or withheld will play a part. Resources available or lacking will shape the trail. Love, education, opportunity will leave their mark. But despite all that assists in the formation of a soul, a surprising person can yet emerge to shatter every preconception.

There’s more to us than birth, death, and the factors that lie between. Believers speak of Paschal Mystery: the bold affirmation that weakness, suffering, and death lead to wonder beyond the tomb. We go where Jesus goes—a startling reality to embrace. In the Collect prayer today we make a bold request: “Constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us.” Think of what we’re asking! Lord, we say, only this: bring every bit of death in us back to life. And do this, Lord, not just today, but relentlessly. Shatter the odds, change the terms, undo the math. See who we’ve turned into. Then make us more.

Alice Camille

Alice Camille is the co-author with Paul Boudreau of Fearless: Stories of the American Saints.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where you give me repose.
Near restful waters you lead me;
to revive my soul.

You guide me along the right path,
for the sake of your name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-17

According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he

builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house with Christ as cornerstone.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Good Shepherd, you comfort us in our sorrow and strengthen us in our affliction. In trust we pray: **R7.** Hear us, O God.

Refresh the imprisoned with your life-giving spirit. **R7.**

Rejoin families who are separated because of war, political disputes, or poverty. **R7.**

Grant eternal life to deceased mothers, and accept our prayers of gratitude for their love. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God revive our spirits in Christ and fill our days with goodness and kindness, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May 10–16

Fifth Week of Easter

Within the Word

A Mutual Indwelling

John's Gospel offers a unique perspective into the personal bonds between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Believers enter a unique relationship with this community, as John's prologue proclaims: "But to those who did accept him he gave power to become *children of God*, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God" (1:12-13).

The Gospel readings for the latter part of this Fifth Week of Easter highlight the spiritual meaning of this relationship as God's children. Rather than focusing on the individual's relationship with God, in John 15 Jesus uses the allegory of the vine and the branches. This challenges believers to see this relationship in a corporate sense: we are united with other believers in a relationship with God. As many branches are united to the one stem of a vine, drawing sustenance from their unity, so it is with believers. Bonded together, they draw sustenance from the person of Jesus Christ, the source of divine nourishment.

The word "remain" occurs twelve times in this chapter: "*Remain* in me, as I *remain* in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it *remains* on the vine, so neither can you unless you *remain* in me" (15:4). And that is just the start! Our identity as God's children—united with God through Jesus Christ—also unites us with one another. The call to remain includes remaining in relationship with one another.

It is the bond of love that enables us to remain united in Jesus and with one another. "As the Father *loves* me, so I also

love you. Remain in my love” (John 15:9). The word “love” occurs ten times in this passage. Love is communicated from the Father through the Son to all believers, who in turn share it with each other.

John’s Gospel contains very little insofar as ethics is concerned. The only law Jesus gives his disciples is the law of love: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (15:12). In the Synoptic Gospels this love commandment is expressed as a command to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). John, on the other hand, models the love command after the way Jesus loved believers: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you” (15:13-14). Love for one another witnesses to the closeness of a disciple’s relationship with Jesus.

John’s spirituality is timeless. Situated in the Upper Room on the night before his death, Jesus, as it were, addresses a message from heaven to believers of every age. Spirituality centered on love is the foundation for every Christian’s life: love unites believers to the Father and Son and moves outward toward others. Love is open to everyone.

Through the image of the vine, Jesus reveals his dwelling within us in love. As Raymond Brown expresses it: “Jesus draws all of us into his embrace. The world has refused to hear his Father; but we who believe have known the Father, and thus have a share in his love and in his Son” (*The Gospel and Epistles of John*).

—Fr. Patrick J. Hartin

Patrick J. Hartin was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. Author of numerous books, he is an ordained priest of the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, and serves as senior pastor in the parish of Our Lady of Fatima.

Monday, May 11

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 61

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

Listen, O God, to my cry!
Attend to my prayer!
From the end of the earth I call you;
my heart is faint.

Set me high upon the rock
too high for me to reach,
you, my refuge and mighty tower
against the foe.

Then will I dwell in your tent forever,
and hide in the shelter of your wings.
For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage
of those who fear your name.

Day upon day you will add to the king;
his years as age upon age.
May he ever sit enthroned before God:
bid mercy and truth be his protection.
So I will sing to your name forever,
and day after day fulfill my vows.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 29:10b-13

Blessed are you, LORD, / God of Israel our father, / from
eternity to eternity. / Yours, LORD, are greatness and

might, / majesty, victory, and splendor. / For all in heaven and on earth is yours; / yours, LORD, is kingship; / you are exalted as head over all. / Riches and glory are from you, / and you have dominion over all. / In your hand are power and might; / it is yours to give greatness and strength to all. / Therefore, our God, we give you thanks / and we praise the majesty of your name.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Give praise to the one and only living God.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Mighty and ever-living God, you are rich in majesty and full of love. In faith we pray: **R⁷**. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Break through the walls that divide Christians from one another, and unite us as one heart and mind in Christ. **R⁷**.

Restore life in lands devastated by storm, disaster, or violence. **R⁷**.

Rescue those entrapped by human trafficking, and bring to justice all who participate in this travesty. **R⁷**.

Our Father . . .

May God hear our cries for help, attend to our prayers, and receive our praise and gratitude, in Jesus our peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

English Carthusian Martyrs

(d. 1535–1540)

Among the many priests and laypeople martyred during the reign of King Henry VIII were eighteen Carthusian monks, all but two from the London Charterhouse. In 1534, like all English Catholics, they had faced the dilemma of whether to take the Oath of Succession, recognizing King Henry's second wife Anne Boleyn as the lawful queen (despite the pope's refusal to annul his previous marriage) and her children as heirs to the throne. The prior, John Houghton, judging this a political matter, ultimately agreed to accept the oath "as far as the law of God allows." Shortly after, however, a new Act of Supremacy required that all subjects recognize the king as the sole head of the Church in England. The choice in this case, the monks believed, was between death and apostasy.

Fr. Houghton and two fellow Carthusian priors met personally with Thomas Cromwell, the king's secretary, to see if there was any way around this dilemma. They were summarily arrested and sent to the Tower. After their conviction for treason they were executed at Tyburn—following the gruesome manner reserved for traitors, to be disemboweled while still alive.

Three successive waves of persecution followed. Several monks were chained to pillars and forced to remain standing for weeks before their execution. Several others were left to starve to death. The last of them was executed on August 4, 1540. They were canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970. Their feast is observed this day by the Carthusian order.

"Being about to die . . . I declare that I have refused to comply with the will of His Majesty the King, not from obstinacy, malice or a rebellious spirit, but solely for fear of offending the Supreme Majesty of God."

—Last words of St. John Houghton

Mass

Monday of the Fifth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, / who laid down his life for his sheep / and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

COLLECT

May your right hand, O Lord, we pray,
encompass your family with perpetual help,
so that, defended from all wickedness
by the Resurrection of your Only Begotten Son,
we may make our way by means of your heavenly gifts.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

14:5-18

*We proclaim to you Good News that you should turn
from these idols to the living God.*

There was an attempt in Iconium by both the Gentiles and the Jews, together with their leaders, to attack and stone Paul and Barnabas. They realized it, and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding countryside, where they continued to proclaim the Good News.

At Lystra there was a crippled man, lame from birth, who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking, who looked intently at him, saw that he had the faith to be healed, and called out in a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet." He jumped up and began to walk about. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they cried out in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in human form." They called Barnabas "Zeus" and Paul "Hermes," because he was the chief

speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, for he together with the people intended to offer sacrifice.

The Apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their garments when they heard this and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, “Men, why are you doing this? We are of the same nature as you, human beings. We proclaim to you good news that you should turn from these idols to the living God, *who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them*. In past generations he allowed all Gentiles to go their own ways; yet, in bestowing his goodness, he did not leave himself without witness, for he gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filled you with nourishment and gladness for your hearts.” Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16

R. (1ab) Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory. *or:* **R.** Alleluia.

Not to us, O LORD, not to us
but to your name give glory
because of your mercy, because of your truth.

Why should the pagans say,
“Where is their God?” **R.**

Our God is in heaven;
whatever he wills, he does.
Their idols are silver and gold,
the handiwork of men. **R.**

May you be blessed by the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
Heaven is the heaven of the LORD,
but the earth he has given to the children of men. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:26

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything
and remind you of all I told you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:21-26

*The Advocate whom the Father will send
will teach you everything.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” Judas, not the Iscariot, said to him, “Master, then what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. / Not as the
world gives do I give it to you, / says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life
in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Humble Unity of Christ

Can you imagine the courage (or stupidity) it took for Paul and Barnabas to tell the priest of Zeus that he worshiped idols, this at the very moment he was prepared to offer sacrifice to them?

Of course, we also offer sacrifice to those who are of the “same nature” as us. It is impossible to read the news and not recognize that the idolatry of nationalism is becoming more virulent every month. To name but a few places: Brazil, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Russia,

the United States. . . The world is mired in tragedy born of tribalism. How is this not an idol to which we sacrifice our children and our treasure?

I suspect this surge in nationalism is an instinctive defense against global realities that have rendered the age of the nation-state untenable. Refugees, destabilization, desertification, flooding of farmland, rising seas, scarcity of food and water: a litany that screams a need for unity in the face of common challenges, many of our own making. The witness of “rains from heaven and fruitful seasons” is in peril from our selfishness, greed, and pride.

God gave us free will and allowed us to go our own way. And so we chose the proud unity of Babel over the humble unity of Christ, he whose fidelity redeemed all of creation. The miracle of the Easter season is its reminder that God has not given up on us, and this yearly time of “nourishment and gladness” can lead us away from idolatry to once again know and exult in the living God who calls us to freedom.

May we have ears to hear.

Rachelle Linner

Rachelle Linner is a freelance writer, reviewer, and a spiritual director. She has a master of theological studies from Weston Jesuit School of Theology and a certificate in spiritual direction from the Franciscan Spiritual Direction Certification Program.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 43

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause
against a nation that is faithless.
From those who are deceitful and cunning
rescue me, O God.

You, O God, are my strength;
why have you rejected me?
Why do I go mourning,
oppressed by the foe?

O send forth your light and your truth;
they will guide me on.
They will bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.

And I will come to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and gladness.
To you will I give thanks on the harp,
O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, my soul;
why groan within me?
Hope in God, whom I will praise yet again,
my saving presence and my God.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:13-16

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have

seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Whoever keeps my word is the one who loves me.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Just God, you are our strength. In confidence we pray:

R. O God, come to our aid.

Send your light upon those who are tempted to harm themselves or others. **R**.

Prosper efforts to stop drug operations and protect the well-being of young people. **R**.

Grant a peaceful death to those who die alone, and lead them to everlasting joy in your presence. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May the God of love and peace abide in us and remain with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday, May 12

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 28:1-2, 6-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

To you, O LORD, I call;
my rock, be not deaf to me.
I shall go down to those in the pit,
if you are silent to me.

Hear the voice of my pleading
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands in prayer
to your holy place.

Blest be the LORD, who has heard
the sound of my appeal.

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in God my heart trusts.
I was helped; my heart rejoices,
and I praise God with my song.

The LORD is the strength of the people,
a saving refuge for God's anointed.
Save your people and bless your heritage.
Shepherd them and carry them forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 12:1-2, 5

You would be in the right, O LORD, / if I should dispute
with you; / even so, I must lay out the case against you.

/ Why does the way of the wicked prosper, / why do all the treacherous live in contentment? / You planted them; they have taken root, / they flourish and bear fruit as well. / You are upon their lips, / but far from their thoughts.

If running against men has wearied you, / how will you race against horses? / And if you are safe only on a level stretch, / what will you do in the jungle of the Jordan?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

It is necessary to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, you call us to live in your love in Jesus. Secure in your care for us we pray: **R7**. Hear us, O God.

Help us to end all forms of torture, terrorism, and racial prejudice. **R7**.

Lead women in crisis pregnancies to find support, health care, and financial aid. **R7**.

Give your love and protection to firefighters, police officers, and emergency aid workers. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May the God of salvation bless our heritage and shepherd us forever, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

René Voillaume

Founder, Little Brothers of Jesus (1905–2003)

In 1901, Charles de Foucauld, a French soldier-turned-monk and hermit (now Blessed), settled in the Algerian desert to implement a new model of religious life. Inspired by Jesus' hidden life as a carpenter in Nazareth, he wished to form a fraternity of "Little Brothers" who would carry on a contemplative life among their poor neighbors. He attracted no followers and died alone in 1916. And yet his vision did not die. In 1921 a biography was published. Among its first readers was a French student, René Voillaume, at the time only sixteen. It changed his life.

In 1933, Voillaume, now a priest, along with four companions, put on the habit of Brother Charles and went to live in the oasis of El Abiodh Sidi Cheikh in Algeria. It was the genesis of the Little Brothers of Jesus. Voillaume and his brothers followed Foucauld's model in adapting to the religious spirit of their Muslim neighbors: "We were not going primarily to the desert but to encounter a population that we would take into our life, through our witness and our intercession."

He lived to see the spread of the Little Brothers into many countries, and the extension of Foucauld's vision in the Little Sisters and to a broader family nourished by the same spirit.

Voillaume died on May 13, 2003.

"Little we are before the task we have to accomplish. Little we shall be in the eyes of men also. All our lives we shall remain unprofitable servants, and we must wish to be so dealt with."

—René Voillaume

Mass

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter
 [Saints Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras, opt. memorials]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 19:5; 12:10

Sing praise to our God, / all you who fear God, both small
 and great, / for now salvation and strength have come, /
 and the power of his Christ, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who restore us to eternal life
 in the Resurrection of Christ,
 grant your people constancy in faith and hope,
 that we may never doubt the promises
 of which we have learned from you.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

14:19-28

*They called the Church together and reported
 what God had done with them.*

In those days, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and entered the city. On the following day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and made a considerable number of disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, "It is necessary for us to undergo many

hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.” They appointed presbyters for them in each Church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith. Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now accomplished. And when they arrived, they called the Church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Then they spent no little time with the disciples.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21

R. (see 12) Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your kingdom. *or*: **R**. Alleluia.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might. **R**.

Making known to men your might
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages,
and your dominion endures through all generations. **R**.

May my mouth speak the praise of the LORD,
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. **R**.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 24:46, 26

Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead,
and so enter into his glory.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:27-31a

My peace I give to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Romans 6:8

If we have died with Christ, / we believe that we shall also
live with Christ, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Animated by Joy

St. Paul, poor dear. He gets bashed to pieces and left for dead, but he's not dead yet. He pops back up and the next day goes on to proclaim the Gospel in another place. Nothing keeps him down. Having survived such abuse, he has the credibility to be able to exhort others to persevere in the faith: hardships may be part of the deal, but God gives a deeper peace. God works through those who proclaim the Kingdom. A deeper joy animates the work of a disciple, no matter the opposition or pain of the path.

Jesus assures us it will be so. In the Gospel of John, as Jesus prepares for his own suffering and death, he wishes his followers a peace not of this world. Yes, suffering and death are frightening prospects, but something more profound than pain is happening. He is preparing to return to the fullness of his relationship with the Father, and a joy and satisfaction pervade his doing what he has been sent to do. There is a greater work yet to be brought to completion, and he is eager to see it through.

As we face our own challenges to persevering in the faith, or to the commitments we have made, whose witness encourages us to stay the course? Who shines with deeply rooted peace and joy, offering us peace in the midst of hardship? How might we be such a sign of the Holy Spirit for others?

Sr. Jeana Visel

Jeana Visel, OSB, is a Benedictine sister of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana. She works at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and is author of Icons in the Western Church.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 54

Save me, O God, by your name;
by your power, defend my cause.
Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen against me,
and the ruthless seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

Behold, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
Let evil recoil on my foes.
In your faithfulness, bring them to an end.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good:
for it has rescued me from all distress,
and my eyes have gazed upon my foes.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:14-18

Christ] is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who

were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of peace, your praise endures through all generations. In faith we pray: **R7.** God, our help, hear us.

Guide those who are in transition or making difficult decisions. **R7.**

Prosper the work of diplomats, ambassadors, and peacemakers. **R7.**

Animate the spirits of those who work in hospice and those who care for the dying. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God look upon us with kindness and give us peace.
Amen.

Wednesday, May 13

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 119:145-152

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

I call with all my heart; LORD, answer me.
I will observe your statutes.
I call upon you; save me,
and I will keep your decrees.

I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I have hoped in your word.
My eyes awoken before dawn,
to ponder your promise.

In your mercy, hear my voice, O LORD;
give me life by your decrees.
Those who pursue me with malice draw near;
they are far from your law.

But you, O LORD, are close;
all your commands are truth.
From of old I have known that your decrees
are established forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:7-10

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD; / the LORD will
be their trust. / They are like a tree planted beside the
waters / that stretches out its roots to the stream: / It does
not fear heat when it comes, / its leaves stay green; / In the

year of drought it shows no distress, / but still produces fruit. / More tortuous than anything is the human heart, / beyond remedy; who can understand it? / I, the LORD, explore the mind / and test the heart, / Giving to all according to their ways, / according to the fruit of their deeds.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of light and truth, you are the hope of those who trust in you. With confidence we pray: **R7.** God, in your kindness, hear our prayer.

Awaken our hearts to the message of your word and the call to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. **R7.**

Wait with those who hope for encouragement, await the return of a loved one, or long for a listening ear. **R7.**

Heal those who suffer from trauma, physical injury, or relationship wounds. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with understanding and forgiving hearts, that we may always walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Unita Zelma Blackwell

Freedom Fighter (1933–2019)

Unita Zelma Blackwell was born on a plantation in Lula, Mississippi, where her parents picked cotton. The same life awaited her; there were few other options for a black child in the Delta. At fourteen she quit school to work in the fields. “Life was just a matter of surviving.” Yet something made her think there was more: a conviction that “something is wrong with this world we live in.” In 1957, following the birth of her son, she fell into a coma. As she hovered on the side of death, she felt God speak to her: “You shall not die. You has work to do.” She recovered and set out on “a process of looking” for her deeper purpose.

The turning point came in 1964 when organizers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee came to her town and talked about registering to vote. She responded to the call, crossing a line of armed white men at the courthouse. She lost her job, but she had crossed to the other side: “Overnight, I went from field hand to full-time freedom fighter.” Blackwell became an organizer for SNCC, participating in countless marches and demonstrations. She was arrested over seventy times, one time held for eleven days with 1,100 demonstrators in a livestock pen, sleeping on the concrete floor, subjected to abusive strip searches. “I don’t think most people today . . . have any idea of the price that ordinary black Mississippians have paid,” she said.

In 1976 she was elected mayor of her town, Mayersville, becoming the first African American woman mayor in Mississippi. She died on May 13, 2019.

“I was fearful; I was scared, but . . . I kept going anyway. . . . I say, ‘Well, Lord, if I die, I’m going to die trying; I’m going to die fighting for freedom.’”

—Unita Zelma Blackwell

Mass

Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter

[Our Lady of Fatima, opt. memorial]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 71 (70):8, 23

Let my mouth be filled with your praise, that I may sing aloud; / my lips shall shout for joy, when I sing to you, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, restorer and lover of innocence, direct the hearts of your servants towards yourself, that those you have set free from the darkness of unbelief may never stray from the light of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

15:1-6

They decided to go up to Jerusalem to the Apostles and presbyters about this question.

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.” Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the Apostles and presbyters about this question. They were sent on their journey by the Church, and passed through Phoenicia and Samaria telling of the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brethren. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the Church, as well as by the Apostles and the presbyters, and they reported what

God had done with them. But some from the party of the Pharisees who had become believers stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and direct them to observe the Mosaic law.”

The Apostles and the presbyters met together to see about this matter.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5

R7. (see 1) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

or: R7. Alleluia.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
“We will go up to the house of the LORD.”
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R7.**

Jerusalem, built as a city
with compact unity.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD. **R7.**

According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:4a, 5b

Remain in me, as I remain in you, says the Lord;
whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:1-8

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch

in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord has risen and shone his light upon us, / whom
he has redeemed by his Blood, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear, O Lord, our prayers,
that this most holy exchange,
by which you have redeemed us,
may bring your help in this present life
and ensure for us eternal gladness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Very Simple Verb

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.

The idea of perseverance occurs often in the scriptures and is expressed in various ways. For example: “to keep the word” implies lasting and stubborn patience: “But as for that [seed] in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance” (Lk 8:15).

When situations test us we face up to them by perseverance and persistence, by endurance, by keeping the word. Trials tend to make us turn back; they persuade us to lose heart. The direct opposite is not necessarily immediate victory; rather it is the endurance that enables us to stand firm and strong. John the evangelist uses a very simple verb: *menein* (“remain” or “abide”), which in context carries the same overtones. “If you abide in me,” Jesus says, “and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (Jn 15:7). “Abiding in Jesus” is the way to meet trials and tests.

Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, *Perseverance in Trials*

Carlo Maria Martini (1927–2012) was an Italian Jesuit and biblical scholar who served as archbishop of Milan from 1979 until his retirement in 2002. He was named a cardinal in 1983. Pope Francis has called Martini “a father for the whole Church.”

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 115:1-8

Not to us, O LORD, not to us,
but to your name give glory,
for your faithful love and fidelity.
Why should the nations say:
“Where is their God?”

But our God is in the heavens,
and wills whatever should be done.
Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

They have mouths but they cannot speak;
they have eyes but they cannot see.
They have ears but they cannot hear;
they have nostrils but they cannot smell.

They have hands but they cannot feel;
they have feet but they cannot walk.
They make no sound from their throats.
Their makers will come to be like them,
as will all who trust in them.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 7:4-6

In the same way . . . you also were put to death to the law through the body of Christ, so that you might belong to another, to the one who was raised from the dead in order

that we might bear fruit for God. For when we were in the flesh, our sinful passions, awakened by the law, worked in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, dead to what held us captive, so that we may serve in the newness of the spirit and not under the obsolete letter.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Faithful and loving God, you work wonders for those who call upon you. In hope we pray: **R7**. May we bear fruit in your name, O God of love.

For Scripture scholars, preachers, and translators of your word, we pray: **R7**.

For liturgists, musicians, and all who lead us in worship, we pray: **R7**.

For farmers, gardeners, and all who work the land, we pray: **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, now and always. Amen.

Thursday, May 14

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 19:2-7

The heavens declare the glory of God,
whose handiwork the firmament proclaims.
Day unto day conveys the message,
and night unto night imparts the knowledge.

No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded;
their sound goes forth through all the earth,
their message to the utmost bounds of the world.

There God has placed a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At one end of the heavens is the rising of the sun;
to its furthest end it runs its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Consider your own calling Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of

the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, you gave St. Matthias a place among the apostles. In company with all the saints we pray: **R7**. Make us true disciples, O God.

Inspire your Church to live and proclaim your Gospel to those who hunger for hope and healing. **R7**.

Give discernment and courage to seminarians and novices in religious life. **R7**.

Animate lay leaders in your Church, and prosper collaboration and dialogue among all the faithful. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us in our discipleship and guide us along paths of peace all our days. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Matthias

Apostle (First Century)

Upon the death of the treacherous Judas, St. Peter determined that another disciple should be chosen to complete the original company of twelve apostles. Criteria for selection were that the candidate should have been among the followers of Jesus and a witness of the risen Lord. By the casting of lots, the choice fell to Matthias. On Pentecost, along with the other apostles, he received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and went on, with zeal, to advance the Gospel.

Other than this brief account from the Acts of the Apostles, little is known of St. Matthias. Clement of Alexandria includes him among the seventy-two disciples sent in mission by Jesus. Other accounts, with scant authority, describe later mission work in Cappadocia, and even among cannibals in Ethiopia. According to legend, he was eventually crucified, though nothing certain is known of the circumstances of his death. His body was believed to rest in Jerusalem, from which his remains were said to be translated to Rome by St. Helena.

“Then they prayed, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.’ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.”

—Acts 1:24-26

Mass

St. Matthias, Feast

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

John 15:16

It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, / but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, / fruit that will last, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

O God, who assigned Saint Matthias a place in the college of Apostles, grant us, through his intercession, that, rejoicing at how your love has been allotted to us, we may merit to be numbered among the elect. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:15-17, 20-26

*The lot fell upon Matthias,
and he was counted with the Eleven Apostles.*

Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers and sisters (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place). He said, “My brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. Judas was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. For it is written in the Book of Psalms: / *Let his encampment become desolate, / and may no one dwell in it. / and: / May another take his office.* / Therefore, it is necessary

that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the Eleven Apostles.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. (8) The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people. *or: R.* Alleluia.

Praise, you servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.

Blessed be the name of the LORD
both now and forever. **R.**

From the rising to the setting of the sun
is the name of the LORD to be praised.

High above all nations is the LORD;
above the heavens is his glory. **R.**

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high
and looks upon the heavens and the earth below? **R.**

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor
To seat them with princes,
with the princes of his own people. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 15:16

I chose you from the world,
to go and bear fruit that will last, says the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the offerings of your Church,
reverently presented for the Feast of Saint Matthias,
and through them strengthen us by the power of your grace.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 15:12

This is my commandment: Love one another / as I love
you, says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Never cease, O Lord, we pray,
to fill your family with divine gifts,
and, through blessed Matthias' intercession for us,
graciously admit us to a share in the lot of the Saints
in light.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Every Day, All Day

Because today is a feast day, the readings are chosen to connect with each other. Jesus tells us that we don't choose him; he chooses us. The reading from Acts recounts the choice of Matthias to replace Judas as one of the Twelve.

Does the way that choice was made seem odd to you? No auditions, no debates between candidates, no secret ballot—just a casting of lots. Matthias got picked by a roll of the dice, and they all assumed that God made the choice.

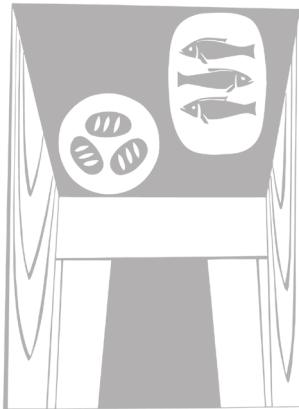
Sometimes we think God's call will come to us in some dramatic way, through a vision or some extraordinary event. But God calls us over and over again, every day and all day long. The call of God usually comes in ordinary ways. It might be a request from a friend or neighbor, a bulletin note about a ministry need, a headline in the paper or an online news item, or just something we see or start thinking about.

The key to listening, perhaps, is what the Second Vatican Council called "reading the signs of the times." If we are sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit within us and the needs of the community around us, we will be able to discern what God is calling us to do in every situation.

We are chosen by God to care for each other. What are the circumstances in your home, your neighborhood, your country, your world that cry out for your love? That's where God is calling you, as a baptized member of the Body of Christ, to "go and bear fruit that will remain."

Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

Lawrence E. Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and a writer and consultant on the liturgy and sacraments.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 34:2-9

I will bless the LORD at all times;
praise is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise God's name.
I sought the LORD, who answered me,
and set me free from all my terrors.

Look towards the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
When the lowly call out, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their distress.

The angel of the LORD is encamped
around those who are reverent, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Blessed are they who seek refuge in him.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:7, 11-13a, 15-16

G]race was given to each of us according to the measure
of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others
as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy
ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of

Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God. [L]iving the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, you call your Church to bear fruit that will last. In faith we pray: **R7.** Bless us, O God.

Help us to yield to your Spirit and love one another in humility and truth. **R7.**

Inspire all nations to a greater care for the poor and vulnerable. **R7.**

Help us to speak and uphold the truth in courage and love. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God equip us with every gift of the Spirit, that we may profess the Gospel and live what we profess, in Jesus our brother. Amen.

Friday, May 15

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 62:2-4, 6-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

In God alone is my soul at rest,
my salvation comes from the Lord.
God alone is my rock, my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not greatly falter.

How long will you attack one alone,
break down your victim,
as you would a tottering wall,
or a tumbling fence?

Be at rest, my soul, in God alone,
from whom comes my hope.
God alone is my rock, my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not falter.

In God is my salvation and my glory,
my rock of strength;
in God is my refuge.
Trust at all times, O people;
pour out your hearts to God, our refuge.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 6:14-17

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; / whoever finds one
finds a treasure. / Faithful friends are beyond price, /

no amount can balance their worth. / Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; / those who fear God will find them. / Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship, / for as they are, so will their neighbors be.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, our rock and salvation, you are the source of our hope. In joy we pray: **R7.** O God, hear our prayer.

Help us to show appreciation to our friends and to be inclusive in our love. **R7.**

Deepen the bonds of love between spouses and within families. **R7.**

Prosper the work of ecumenism. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us in faith, hope, and love, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Dymphna

Martyr (d. ca. 650)

According to legend, Dymphna was the daughter of a pagan Irish king. Her mother, a Christian princess, died when Dymphna was a young child, but not before passing along her faith. Over time, as Dymphna matured, the king noticed her growing resemblance to his departed wife. Conceiving an unnatural obsession with the girl, he proposed that she become his bride. In response, she fled the court, accompanied by a small retinue, including her confessor. Landing in Belgium, they made their way to Gheel (in present-day Belgium), where they lived as hermits and tried to avoid attention.

Meanwhile, the king's frustrated desires had turned to rage. After tracking down the refugees he insisted that Dymphna return with him. When she refused, he struck her dead. Afterward, she was mourned by the local people, whose love she had earned by her care for the poor and sick.

In the thirteenth century, a sarcophagus in Gheel was found to contain the remains of St. Dymphna. This occasion was accompanied, it is said, by the miraculous healing of many local epileptics and others suffering from mental disturbances. From that time on Gheel became a refuge and center for the humane treatment of the mentally ill, and St. Dymphna was invoked as their patron.

“O God, we humbly beseech You through Your servant, St. Dymphna, who sealed with her blood the love she bore You, to grant relief to those who suffer from mental afflictions and nervous disorders.”

—Prayer to St. Dymphna

Mass

Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter

[*St. Isidore, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 5:12

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, / to receive power and divinity, / and wisdom and strength and honor, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
that, being rightly conformed to the paschal mysteries,
what we celebrate in joy
may protect and save us with perpetual power.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

15:22-31

*It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us
not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities.*

The Apostles and presbyters, in agreement with the whole Church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them: “The Apostles and the presbyters, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: 'It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"

And so they were sent on their journey. Upon their arrival in Antioch they called the assembly together and delivered the letter. When the people read it, they were delighted with the exhortation.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

57:8-9, 10 and 12

R⁷. (10a) I will give you thanks among the peoples, O Lord.

or: **R⁷.** Alleluia.

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast;

I will sing and chant praise.

Awake, O my soul; awake, lyre and harp!

I will wake the dawn. **R⁷.**

I will give thanks to you among the peoples, O LORD,

I will chant your praise among the nations.

For your mercy towers to the heavens,

and your faithfulness to the skies.

Be exalted above the heavens, O God;

above all the earth be your glory! **R⁷.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:15b

I call you my friends, says the Lord,

for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:12-17

This is my commandment: love one another.

Jesus said to his disciples: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Crucified is risen from the dead / and has redeemed us, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord,

that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him

may bring us growth in charity.

Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Very Best Within Us

Can we or should we be commanded to love? Today's Scriptures are wrapped around this profound mystery.

Those who have been raised in a secular Western culture may be inclined to resist anything that smacks of a "command." We tend to associate "commands" with a military or hierarchical culture in which someone with authority orders another person to obey. Such a structure of "command" hardly seems to inspire the willing and free desire to love.

And yet there is something about a command that presumes the very best within us: that we can be turned inside out and upside down, that we are capable of responding to a call that invites us beyond ourselves. When *Christ* commands us to love, we can be certain that even if we have previously fallen short, we can be changed and begin to act in loving ways.

In other words, the commandment to love does not presume we have arrived at love once and for all. Instead, it sets us on the path to love, affirming that we will become more loving as we act in loving ways. Jesus knew his disciples were imperfect, but he still considered them his friends. And he trusted them to love others as he had loved them.

How precious are the moments when we know we are summoned to love. These are the moments of Annunciation, of Visitation, of Resurrection. These are the moments when command and call are one and the same.

Mary Jo Leddy

Mary Jo Leddy is director and founder of Romero House in Toronto and the author of The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 106:1-5, 47

Alleluia!

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good,
whose faithful love endures forever.
Who can tell the LORD's mighty deeds,
or recount God's praise in full?

Blessed are they who observe what is just,
who at all times do what is righteous.

O LORD, remember me
with the favor you show to your people.

Visit me with your saving power,
that I may see the riches of your chosen ones,
and may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
boasting in the glory of your heritage.

Save us, O LORD our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12-15

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness,
and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one
another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord
has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these

put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Good and gracious God, your faithful love endures forever. In hope we pray: **R₇**. Bless us, O God.

Impart your healing gifts and spirit on physicians, nurses, and medical professionals. **R₇**.

Help us to forgive those who have trespassed against us. **R₇**.

Gather your Church together as one in the body of Christ. **R₇**.

Our Father . . .

May God show us mercy, forgive us our sin, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Saturday, May 16

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 75:2-8, 10-11

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

We give praise to you, O God;
we give praise, for your name is near.
We recount your wonderful deeds.

“When I establish the appointed time,
then I myself will judge with fairness.
Though the earth and all who dwell in it may rock,
it is I who set firm its pillars.

To the boastful I say, ‘Do not boast’;
to the wicked, ‘Do not flaunt your strength,
do not exalt your strength on high.
Do not speak with insolent pride.’”

For neither from the east nor from the west,
nor from the desert comes exaltation.
For God alone is the judge,
who humbles one and exalts another.

As for me, I will rejoice forever,
and sing psalms to the God of Jacob.

I shall break the strength of the wicked,
while the strength of the just will be exalted.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 41:8-10

You, Israel, my servant, / Jacob, whom I have chosen,
/ offspring of Abraham my friend— / You whom I have
taken from the ends of the earth / and summoned from its
far-off places, / To whom I have said, You are my servant; /
I chose you, I have not rejected you— / Do not fear: I am
with you; / do not be anxious: I am your God. / I will
strengthen you, I will help you, / I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or
another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I have chosen you; do not be afraid.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

All-powerful God, you act with justice and set things
right throughout the world. In faith we pray: **R7**. Just
God, hear our prayer.

Uncover deceitful practices, and bring all people to walk
in the light of Christ. **R7**.

Break the strength of the wicked, and help us to end the
cycles of violence and abuse. **R7**.

Inspire us to take time to appreciate the natural world
and to care for the earth. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with every gift of the Spirit so that we
may act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly in the light
of Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Alban Butler

Priest and Hagiographer (1710–1773)

Alban Butler, an English priest, did more than any modern writer to stimulate devotion to the saints. His multivolume *Lives of the Saints* was first published in the mid-1700s. For its time, it was the most thorough review of the topic undertaken since the far more credulous *Golden Legend* of the thirteenth century.

Butler himself lived a relatively unremarkable life. Born in Northamptonshire, he attended seminary at Douai in France, where he was ordained in 1735. In 1749, he traveled to England to serve briefly as chaplain to the duke of Norfolk, but he happily returned to France to serve as president of the English College of Saint-Omer. There he remained until his death in 1773.

Butler's work, which reviewed approximately sixteen hundred saints, was the product of thirty years of labor. It was not, regrettably, the product of literary genius. Even admirers and his modern-day editors have acknowledged his verbose style. His work, however, was animated by his belief that through sustained reflection on the lives of the saints, readers might be inspired in their own pursuit of holiness. For this purpose, he was less interested in saints as miracle workers than as exemplars of faith, hope, and charity. More than powerful intercessors in heaven, the saints, in Butler's telling, served as living examples of the Gospel, "clothed as it were with a body."

"They were once what we are now; travellers on earth. . . . The saints are a 'cloud of witnesses over our head,' showing us that a life of Christian perfection is not impossible."

—Rev. Alban Butler

Mass

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Colossians 2:12

You have been buried with Christ in Baptism, / through
which you also rose again / by faith in the working of
God, / who raised him from the dead, alleluia.

COLLECT

Almighty and eternal God,
who through the regenerating power of Baptism
have been pleased to confer on us heavenly life,
grant, we pray,
that those you render capable of immortality
by justifying them
may by your guidance
attain the fullness of glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

16:1-10

Come over to Macedonia and help us.

Paul reached also Derbe and Lystra where there was a
disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman
who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. The brothers
in Lystra and Iconium spoke highly of him, and Paul wanted
him to come along with him. On account of the Jews of that
region, Paul had him circumcised, for they all knew that
his father was a Greek. As they traveled from city to city,
they handed on to the people for observance the decisions
reached by the Apostles and presbyters in Jerusalem. Day

after day the churches grew stronger in faith and increased in number.

They traveled through the Phrygian and Galatian territory because they had been prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching the message in the province of Asia. When they came to Mysia, they tried to go on into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them, so they crossed through Mysia and came down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision. A Macedonian stood before him and implored him with these words, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we sought passage to Macedonia at once, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the Good News to them.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

100:1b-2, 3, 5

R7. (2a) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or: **R7.** Alleluia.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song. **R7.**

Know that the LORD is God;
he made us, his we are;
his people, the flock he tends. **R7.**

The LORD is good:
his kindness endures forever,
and his faithfulness, to all generations. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3:1

If then you were raised with Christ,
seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:18-21

*You do not belong to the world,
and I have chosen you out of the world.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, ‘No slave is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your family,
that under your protective care
they may never lose what they have received,
but attain the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 17:20-21

Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, / so
that the world may believe it was you who sent me, / says
the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray,
those whom you have saved by your kindness,
that, redeemed by the Passion of your Son,
they may rejoice in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection

A Joyful Song

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

With the well-tuned, harmonious harp of your divine heart,
and through the power of your Holy Spirit, the Paraclete,
I sing to you, Lord God, lovable Father.

I sing you songs of praise and thanksgiving for all creatures
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,
for all which are and were and will be born.

I give you thanks to the best of my ability, Lord God.
You created and re-create me.

Thank you for your kind forgiveness
and for reassuring me of your unending love,
flowing down from up above.

Be my honor, Lord,
my joy,
my beauty,
my consolation in sorrow,
my counsel in uncertainty,
my defense in everything unfair,
my patience in problems,
my abundance in poverty,
my food in fasting,
my sleep in vigilance,
and my therapy in weakness.

St. Gertrude of Helfta, *Spiritual Exercises*

Gertrude of Helfta (1256–1301), also known as Gertrude the Great, was a German Benedictine nun, mystic, and scholar. Her writings include Spiritual Exercises and The Herald of Divine Love.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 47

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
the great king over all the earth.

God humbles peoples under us
and nations under our feet.
Our heritage God chose for us,
the pride of Jacob the beloved.

God has gone up with shouts of joy.
The LORD goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God; sing praise!
Sing praise to our king; sing praise!
For God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with a hymn.

God is reigning over nations,
God sits upon a holy throne.
The leaders of the peoples are assembled
with the people of the God of Abraham.
For the rulers of the earth belong to God,
who is greatly exalted.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:18-21, 23

Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool so as

to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: / “He catches the wise in their own ruses,” / and again: / “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.” / So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you . . . and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I have chosen you out of the world.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Most High God, you love us with an inexhaustible and extravagant love. Humbly we pray to you: **R7.** Lead us by your kindness, O God.

Give courage and fortitude to emergency aid workers and all who suffer from the effects of natural and environmental disasters. **R7.**

Show your loving care to all who live in the midst of oppressive rule, war, or political conflicts. **R7.**

Grant peace to the dying and eternal life to all who have gone before us in faith. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God favor us with love, guard us in peace, and bring us to share in everlasting joy with Christ our Risen Savior. Amen.



Sunday, May 17

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 148:1-6

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

Alleluia!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights.
Praise the Lord, all his angels;
praise the Lord, all his hosts.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
praise the Lord, all shining stars.
Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created.
God established them forever and ever,
gave a law which shall not pass away.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 34:16-20

Whoever fear the Lord are afraid of nothing / and are never discouraged, for he is their hope. / Happy the soul that fears the Lord! / In whom does he trust, and who is his support? / The eyes of the Lord are upon those who love him; / he is their mighty shield and strong support, /

A shelter from the heat, a shade from the noonday sun, / a guard against stumbling, a help against falling. / He lifts up spirits, brings a sparkle to the eyes, / gives health and life and blessing.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Always be ready to give a reason for your hope.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creator of stars and seas, Lover of humankind, we glory in your commanding word and pray in faith: **R**. God, our hope, hear us.

Animate the prayer, song, and worship of your Church, and unite our voices in one hymn of praise. **R**.

Give us courage to expand our circle of hospitality, and make your Church a place of welcome for all people. **R**.

Sensitize us to the suffering of other people, and let us walk humbly in Christ. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May the God of salvation give us health, life, and blessing in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mass

*Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated the following Sunday, the second reading and Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter may be read on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Isaiah 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; / proclaim to the ends of the earth: / The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days
of joy,
which we keep in honor of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:5-8, 14-17

*Peter and John laid hands on them,
and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and

many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

R7. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or: R7. Alleluia.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
sing praise to the glory of his name;
proclaim his glorious praise.

Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!" **R7.**

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,
sing praise to your name!"

Come and see the works of God,
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam. **R7.**

He has changed the sea into dry land;
through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him.

He rules by his might forever. **R7.**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare
what he has done for me.

Blessed be God who refused me not
my prayer or his kindness! **R7.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter 3:15-18*Put to death in the flesh, Christ was raised to life in the Spirit.*

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**John 14:23**

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21*I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves

me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 330)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, /
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another
Paraclete, / to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Truth Shimmers and Squirms and Saves

Can Christ be dying and rising in my life at the same time? It is difficult to allow apparently contradictory truths to occupy equal space in our hearts. We grow anxious and impatient. We attempt to force resolution one way or another. We issue ultimatums and threats.

Implicit in such thinking may be the assumption that somewhere hanging out in the ether is truth—truth, objective and obvious, provable and as certain as the pear tree outside my window. Another assumption may be that truth resonates subjectively in my own experience and conscience, and that they are the only ultimate authority. Hence we may turn to our opponent with the condescending attitude that “if you were not so sinful or wounded or stupid you would see all this and agree with me.”

Yet from my vantage point, truth shimmers and is multi-valent. It dances and surprises like a good poem. It will not be stuffed in your back pocket but squirms out, oozes down your leg, and gets stuck on the sole of your shoe. You get home and start to peel it off and find half a dozen other things you picked up on the way. Truth gets the giggles and tap dances. It dresses up in gothic cathedrals and lies in the gutter on the bad side of town. We can come to know it, but we can never possess it. And its subversive agenda is the total occupation of our hearts.

I suppose we can set out to seek truth, to be truthful, but such enterprises are apt to be unsuccessful. Truth is not something we seize upon, but rather most often it leaps out from bushes in dark alleys when we are not looking and grabs us by the throat. It seizes us out of the clutches of misery or pride. Truth teases us in our dreams. It will not be manipulated, cogitated, or collated by the human mind.

Jesus said he was it and that we would know it and it would set us free. Finally truth suffers disbelief, hurts, and dies. And in the end truth saves—on its terms, in its time.

..... Loretta Ross, *Letters from the Holy Ground*

Loretta Ross, a retired Presbyterian clergywoman, directs The Sanctuary Foundation for Prayer in Iowa City, Iowa.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 139:1-10

O LORD, you search me and you know me.
You yourself know my resting and my rising;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down;
you know all my ways through and through.

Before ever a word is on my tongue,
you know it, O LORD, through and through.
Behind and before, you besiege me,
your hand ever laid upon me.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge;
too high, beyond my reach.

O where can I go from your spirit,
or where can I flee from your face?
If I climb the heavens, you are there.
If I lie in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn
or dwell at the sea's furthest end,
even there your hand would lead me;
your right hand would hold me fast.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 John 1-2, 4-6

The Presbyter to the chosen Lady and to her children
whom I love in truth—and not only I but also all who
know the truth—because of the truth that dwells in us and
will be with us forever.

I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth just as we were commanded by the Father. But now, Lady, I ask you, not as though I were writing a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: let us love one another. For this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, as you heard from the beginning, in which you should walk.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creating God, you besiege us with everlasting love. In hope we pray: **R7.** Make us new in Christ, O God.

Console those whose hearts are troubled, and let them know the compassionate care of others. **R7.**

Attune our hearts and minds to the suffering of the poor and significant changes in the earth's patterns. **R7.**

Watch over those who suffer mental illness, and strengthen their families and caregivers in peace. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God enrich our lives with every gift of the Spirit, that we may live in Christ and bear his peace to the world. Amen.

May 17–23

Sixth Week of Easter

Within the Word

From Beginning to End: Praise God!

Have you ever been so delighted with something—the arrival of a loved one or the gift you absolutely longed for—that you couldn’t talk or even breathe? That’s the experience we are called to have with “alleluia!” The last five psalms in the psalter all begin with Hallelujah. Hallelujah seems to be everywhere. Translations are deceptive, however. There are even more shouts of “hallelu” through these final psalms. “Praise the Lord” or “praise Him” are all *hallelu* in Hebrew. Psalm 148 (Wednesday) begins with “hallelujah, hallelu,” and the second half of the verse begins with “halleluhu” (in English, “praise him”). In all, the root “hallel” appears thirteen times in this psalm of fourteen verses.

There is a danger, however, in this repetition of “hallelu.” How often do you let the alleluia of the eucharistic liturgy just slide by like an announcement to stand up for the Gospel? Have you considered that this announcement is really a shout of praise? The alleluia announcement is not only a reminder to stand up; it is a command to praise God with all your delighted energy. We probably cannot energize ourselves enough for a breathless, heart-stopping delight. But we certainly can stir up some energy to praise the Lord.

Who and what will join us in this breathtaking praise? In Psalm 148 we begin at the top with angels and “hosts” (perhaps archangels). Then creation is summoned to join the

song: sun, moon, stars. In the twenty-first century we might consider the highest heavens to include the planets, the supernovae, all the galaxies. We are only beginning to recognize these phenomena, and it seems that more and more are beyond our recognition.

We might need to take a moment at the end of this first half of the psalm to stop and simply revel in this expanse of God's creation. But the psalmist is not finished. We come down from the heavens to our good earth. Even here, however, we are awestruck. The psalmist invites us to consider what is in the depth of the sea—perhaps not monsters, but amazing creatures that stagger our imaginations.

Finally, we return to what we recognize, but even here we are filled with wonder. Who has not been awed or even terrified by the weather? Under our feet we have the beauty and inspiration of our earth: the land and the animals. Millennia after the psalmists sang this song of praise, we are still discovering living creatures that surprise us. All these creatures are called to help us praise God's name. But most amazing for the psalmist are human beings—all of us. Some are powerful but all are important: men, women, young, and old.

By ourselves we do not have the strength to encompass all the wonder of God's creation. The greatest wonder, perhaps, is the insight that God cares for all people, great and small. But we cannot forget that even in the midst of all this amazement, God cares for us. God tenderly watches over the chosen people, truly all of us. No wonder we end as we began: Hallelujah!

—Sr. Irene Nowell

Irene Nowell, OSB, is a member of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas. She is author of Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Conversing with God through the Psalms and Wisdom: The Good Life.

Monday, May 18

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 83:2-5, 14-19

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

O God, do not be silent;
do not be still and unmoved, O God.
For your enemies raise a tumult;
those who hate you lift up their heads.

They plot against your people,
conspire against those you cherish.
They say, "Come, let us destroy them as a nation;
let not the name of Israel be remembered."

My God, scatter them like the whirlwind,
drive them like chaff in the wind!
As fire that burns away the forest,
as the flame that sets the mountains ablaze,
drive them away with your tempest,
and fill them with terror at your storm.

Cover their faces with shame,
so that they seek your name, O LORD.
Shame and terror be theirs forever.
Let them be disgraced; let them perish!

Let them know that you alone,
you whose name is the LORD,
are the Most High over all the earth.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Judith 16:13-15

will sing a new song to my God. / O Lord, great are you and glorious, / marvelous in power and unsurpassable. / Let your every creature serve you; / for you spoke, and they were made. / You sent forth your spirit, and it created them; / no one can resist your voice. / For the mountains to their bases / are tossed with the waters; / the rocks, like wax, melt before your glance.

“But to those who fear you, / you will show mercy.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Do not be afraid; I am sending the Spirit to be with you.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Most High God, supreme above the earth, you love goodness. We trust in your care and pray: **R7.** Help us, O God.

Heal those who have been harmed by Church officials, and renew your Church in love. **R7.**

Thwart the plots of terrorists and all who seek to harm others. **R7.**

Restore in our society a sense of compassion and respect for the dignity of every human being. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God send the Spirit to be with us and fill our hearts with the peace of Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Ruth and Naomi

Women of Faith

The Book of Ruth is set in an indeterminate time “when the Judges ruled.” That period is better remembered for stories of warfare and lawless violence, often enacted on the bodies of women. The Book of Ruth, in contrast, highlights the actions and faith of two women whose trust in God and each other opens a way to overcome their precarious circumstances.

Naomi and her husband Elimelech had escaped famine in Israel by moving to Moab, where their sons married local women. When her husband and both her sons die, Naomi decides to move back to Israel, counseling her daughters-in-law to seek husbands among their own people. One of them, Ruth, refuses to leave Naomi’s side.

The two women return to Israel—one of them a foreigner—with no means of support apart from gleaning the fields. Nevertheless, there is a happy ending. With Naomi’s encouragement, Ruth attracts the attention of a wealthy kinsman, who agrees to marry her and thus redeem the name of her dead husband.

And so Ruth, by her faith and love, is incorporated into the house of Israel; in fact, she becomes a grandmother of David, and a foremother of Jesus. In the story of Ruth and Naomi, there is no violence, no “mighty deeds.” Just two women, trusting in one another, hoping in the God who watches over the weak, who fills the hungry, and restores life.

“Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

—Ruth 1:16

Mass

Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter

[*St. John I, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Romans 6:9

Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more; /
death will no longer have dominion over him, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, O merciful God,
that we may experience at all times
the fruit produced by the paschal observances.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

16:11-15

*The Lord opened her heart
to pay attention to what Paul taught.*

We set sail from Troas, making a straight run for Samothrace, and on the next day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, a leading city in that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We spent some time in that city. On the sabbath we went outside the city gate along the river where we thought there would be a place of prayer. We sat and spoke with the women who had gathered there. One of them, a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira, a worshiper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying. After she and her household had been baptized, she offered us an invitation, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my home," and she prevailed on us.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

R. (see 4a) **The Lord takes delight in his people.**

or: R. Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song

of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in their maker,

let the children of Zion rejoice in their king. **R.**

Let them praise his name in the festive dance,

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the LORD loves his people,

and he adorns the lowly with victory. **R.**

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy upon their couches.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats.

This is the glory of all his faithful. **Alleluia. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:26b, 27a

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord,
and you also will testify.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

15:26–16:4a

The Spirit of truth will testify to me.

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not

known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 20:19

Jesus stood in the midst of his disciples / and said to
them: Peace be with you, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Happy Magnets

How do we get our kids to go to church? It may be one of the most-asked question in all of Catholicism. We've tried everything. We've begged, pleaded, threatened, cajoled. Not even bribery works. We end up dragging them to Mass, and then

they just sit there and sulk. Once they've grown up, they're gone. How do we get them back?

Jesus says we need to testify. But what does "testify" mean? Today's celebration has clues. The first appears in the opening prayer, where we ask that the Easter season will produce "fruit" in us. Think: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5). Similarly, the prayer over the offerings says we have cause for "great gladness" and asks that we "may bear fruit in perpetual happiness."

God created us to be happy. Everybody's hardwired for happiness. Everything we do is motivated out of a desire to be happy. Even the stupid things we do that end in misery—we thought they were going to make us happy!

To testify, then, is to be so peaceful, so joyful, so happy that we turn into happy magnets. Everybody, including our sons and daughters, will want what we've got. If our actions convey our joy of hearing God's word, if we anticipate with gladness the sacrament of Christ in us, if we eagerly prepare for and participate in Mass, we become the attractive draw. Perhaps, then, at some point we'll hear the words, "Maybe I'll come too."

Fr. Paul Boudreau

Fr. Paul Boudreau is the pastor of St. Mary Church in Portland, Connecticut. He is coauthor, along with Alice Camille, of The Forgiveness Book: A Catholic Approach.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 29:1-4, 7-11

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of God's name;
bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the LORD upon the waters,
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the LORD full of power;
the voice of the LORD full of splendor.

The voice of the LORD flashes flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness,
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh;
the voice of the LORD rends the oak tree
and strips the forest bare.

In God's temple they all cry, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits as king forever.

Give strength to your people, O LORD.
O LORD, bless your people with peace.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

3 John 2, 5-7a

Beloved, I hope you are prospering in every respect and
are in good health, just as your soul is prospering.

Beloved, you are faithful in all you do for the brothers, especially for strangers; they have testified to your love before the church. Please help them in a way worthy of God to continue their journey. For they have set out for the sake of the Name.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Lydia welcomed Paul and his companions to her home.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Glorious God, your splendor shines through the universe and delights the children of earth. Awed by your majesty we pray: **R7.** Creating God, hear our prayer.

Deepen our understanding of Church teaching, and inspire our imagination. **R7.**

Give wisdom, insight, and humble trust to spiritual companions, confessors, and counselors. **R7.**

Bestow your peace on those who experience anxiety, worry, or insomnia. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God wipe away all tears from our eyes, fill our hearts with peace, and bring us together to eternal life, through Jesus our joy. Amen.

Tuesday, May 19

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 77:2-4, 11-16

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

I cry aloud to God,
cry aloud to God that I be heard.

In the day of my distress I seek the Lord.
In the night my hands are raised unwearied;
my soul refuses comfort.

As I remember my God, I groan.
I ponder, and my spirit faints.

I said, "This is what causes my grief:
that the right hand of the Most High has changed."

I remember the deeds of the LORD,
I remember your wonders of old;
I muse on all your works,
and ponder your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is as great as our God?
You are the God who works wonders.
Among the peoples you showed your power.
Your strong arm redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 63:11b-14

Where is the one who brought up out of the sea / the shepherd of his flock? / Where is the one who placed

in their midst / his holy spirit, / Who guided Moses by the hand, / with his glorious arm? / Where is the one who divided the waters before them— / winning for himself an everlasting renown— / Who guided them through the depths, / like horses in open country? / As cattle going down into the valley, / they did not stumble. / The spirit of the LORD guided them. / Thus you led your people, / to make for yourself a glorious name.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

If I go, I will send the Advocate to you.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of marvelous deeds, we recall your mighty wonders and place our hope in you as we pray: **R7.** Send us your Spirit, O God.

Satisfy our heart's desire for you, and lead us to praise you always. **R7.**

Encourage the newly baptized, and sustain their Easter joy. **R7.**

Watch over those who suffer dementia or Alzheimer's, and care for the needs of their families and loved ones. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the praise of God be always on our lips and in our hearts, through Jesus our light. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Celestine V

Pope (ca. 1209–1296)

Following the death of Pope Nicholas IV in 1292, the papal throne remained vacant for over two years. The cardinals were bitterly divided by family rivalries that left them unable to agree on a successor. At this time they received a message from Pietro di Morone, an elderly hermit, then 84, threatening them with the wrath of God should they fail in their duty. They responded by electing Pietro himself. He accepted the charge and arrived in Aquila riding on a donkey. News of the selection of this holy man, who chose the name Celestine V, inspired wild enthusiasm. Some saw this as inaugurating a new age of the Holy Spirit. Others sought to manipulate the unworldly pope into favoring their interests. Bewildered by the affairs of the papal court, Celestine soon became convinced that his piety was no match for the duties of office. After only five months, he abdicated his office and returned to his monastic community.

The next pope, Boniface VIII, a man whose character contrasted in every sense with his predecessor, feared the influence of the still-popular Celestine. He had the former pontiff arrested and imprisoned in a fortress, where, after ten months, he died on May 19, 1296. He was canonized in 1313.

Opinions of Celestine's abdication have varied. Dante, charging him with "the great refusal" (and saddling the Church with Boniface), placed him in the vestibule of the Inferno. But in April 2009 Pope Benedict XVI prayed at Celestine's grave, and there left the pallium he had worn at his own papal inauguration. In February 2013 Pope Benedict announced his decision to resign.

"I wanted nothing in the world but a cell, and a cell they have given me."

—St. Celestine V

Mass

Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 19:7, 6

Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to God, / for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty and merciful God, that we may in truth receive a share in the Resurrection of Christ your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

16:22-34

*Believe in the Lord Jesus
and you and your household will be saved.*

The crowd in Philippi joined in the attack on Paul and Silas, and the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After inflicting many blows on them, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. When he received these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake.

About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the prisoners listened, there was suddenly such a severe earthquake that the foundations of the jail shook; all the doors flew open, and the chains of all were pulled loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted out in a loud voice, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." He asked for a light and rushed in and,

trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved." So they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8

R. (7c) Your right hand saves me, O Lord. *or:* **R.** Alleluia.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
 for you have heard the words of my mouth;
 in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
 I will worship at your holy temple,
 and give thanks to your name. **R.**

Because of your kindness and your truth,
 you have made great above all things
 your name and your promise.

When I called, you answered me;
 you built up strength within me. **R.**

Your right hand saves me.

The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
 your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
 forsake not the work of your hands. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 16:7, 13

I will send to you the Spirit of truth, says the Lord;
 he will guide you to all truth.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 16:5-11

For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Luke 24:46, 26

The Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, / and so
enter into his glory, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear, O Lord, our prayers,
that this most holy exchange,
by which you have redeemed us,
may bring your help in this present life
and ensure for us eternal gladness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Rustling of Hearts

With fallen leaves crunching underfoot, autumn's renunciation leads to the solemn face of winter, nature's countenance stripped to its essential structure. Yet these seasons of relinquishment make possible the exuberant vitality of springtime followed by the mature countenance of summer, the earth's face sunlit and beneficent.

During seasons of relinquishment it can be hard to envision springtime and summer. Jesus' disciples must have felt a sense of abandonment when he told them he was going to the Father. Perhaps they bore a wintry expression as leaves fell within their heart. Perhaps they felt their hope trampled underfoot. Yet in Jesus' going, the way was cleared for the Spirit to stir, rustling hearts like new leaves on a springtime tree.

We see springtime in full bloom in the reading from Acts. Paul and Silas are loosed from prison, and flowers blossom in the hearts of the jailer and his household. "Believe" is what Paul told the jailer he must do. Belief is at the heart of surrender, the belief that when leaves fall, spring will follow, and that when Jesus goes, the Holy Spirit will come. Belief makes room for a springtime rustling of leaves to sweep winter from our hearts and, like the jailer, for salvation to come.

In this sixth week of Easter, it's a good time to examine our hearts and let any residual winter melt away so that when the Spirit comes in its fullness, our hearts can rustle like new leaves in springtime, leading us to the full stature of mature disciples of Jesus.

Sr. Lynn Elisabeth Meadows

Lynn Elisabeth Meadows, OSB, is a member of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 6

O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger;
reprove me not in your rage.
Have mercy on me, LORD, for I languish.
LORD, heal me; my bones are shaking,
and my soul is greatly shaken.

But you, O LORD, how long?
Return, LORD, rescue my soul.
Save me in your gracious love.
For in death there is no remembrance of you;
who can give you praise from Sheol?

I am exhausted with my groaning;
every night I drench my bed with tears,
I bedew my couch with weeping.
My eyes waste away with grief;
they have grown weak surrounded by all my foes.

Leave me, all who do evil,
for the LORD heeds the sound of my weeping.
The LORD has heard my plea;
The LORD will receive my prayer.
All my foes will be shamed and greatly shaken,
suddenly put to shame.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:27-30

Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am ab-

sent, I may hear news of you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind struggling together for the faith of the gospel, not intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is proof to them of destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him. Yours is the same struggle as you saw in me and now hear about me.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Paul and Silas sang hymns to God as the prisoners listened.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Merciful God, you save us in your gracious love. We lift our needs to your care as we pray: **R7.** God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Release those who are unjustly imprisoned. **R7.**

Relieve the burdens of those who live in poverty or deprivation of any kind. **R7.**

Receive those who grieve into your loving embrace. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us to live in peace and manifest the wonders of Christ's love to our brothers and sisters, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Wednesday, May 20

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 119:97-104

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

O LORD, how I love your law:
my meditation all the day!
Your command makes me wiser than my foes,
for it is with me always.

I have more insight than all who teach me,
for I ponder your decrees.
I have gained more understanding than my elders,
for I keep your precepts.

I keep my feet from every evil path,
to obey your word.
I have not turned away from your decrees;
you yourself have taught me.

How sweet is your promise to my tongue,
more than honey in the mouth.
I gain understanding from your precepts,
and so I hate all false ways.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-10, 13

Now ask the beasts to teach you, / the birds of the air
to tell you; / Or speak to the earth to instruct you, /

and the fish of the sea to inform you. / Which of all these does not know / that the hand of God has done this? / In his hand is the soul of every living thing, / and the life breath of all mortal flesh. / With him are wisdom and might; / his are counsel and understanding.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

In God we live and move and have our being.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of truth and holiness, your saving word is the source of wisdom. In faith we pray: **R₇**. Teach us, O God.

Direct our minds and hearts to Christ's generous care for others. **R₇**.

Lead all people to desire and practice reconciliation, dialogue, and forgiveness. **R₇**.

Guide efforts to work for the well-being of all creation. **R₇**.

Our Father . . .

May God delight our eyes, minds, and hearts in the light of this new day, through Jesus our Risen Savior. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Irene McCormack

Religious, Martyr (1938–1991)

After thirty years teaching in Western Australia, Irene McCormack, a Sister of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, felt called to mission work in Latin America. An “overwhelming experience of the unconditional, gratuitous love of God” had joined a powerful social conviction: that “to continue to spiritualize what it means to be poor and not to work with the poor in a third-world situation is . . . a way of evading history, the real world.”

In 1989, after two years of work in poor suburbs of Lima, she and a fellow sister, Dorothy Stevenson, were sent to live in Huasahuasi, a town in the Andes highlands. Soon after their arrival, death threats from *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path) guerrillas forced them and the resident priests to return to Lima. But the sisters, feeling the people shouldn’t be abandoned by the Church, chose to return. For twelve months, the two sisters oversaw all religious services and ministries, traveling when possible to distant towns to collect consecrated hosts for Mass. The experience “gifted” her “with a new appreciation of the Eucharist”: “As we in our little Christian communities, high up in the Andes, gather in the memory of Jesus, there is no power or authority on earth that can convince me that Jesus is not personally present.”

On May 21, 1991, *Sendero* rebels invaded the town. After seizing Sr. Irene along with four local men, they subjected them to a public “trial” as agents of “Yankee ideas” and then shot them each in the back of the head.

“God, my Father, you love and forgive me, / So TODAY I accept all as gift- / and ask to find you Lord the Giver in the gift. / I choose to face life without fear / and to live wholeheartedly in each present moment . . .”

Sr. Irene McCormack, RSJ

Mass

Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Easter
 [St. Bernardine of Siena, opt. memorial]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 18 (17):50; 22 (21):23

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; / I will tell of
 your name to my kin, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
 that, as we celebrate in mystery
 the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection,
 so, too, we may be worthy
 to rejoice at his coming with all the Saints.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

17:15, 22–18:1

What therefore you unknowingly worship, I proclaim to you.

After Paul's escorts had taken him to Athens, they came
 away with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join
 him as soon as possible.

Then Paul stood up at the Areopagus and said: "You
 Athenians, I see that in every respect you are very religious.
 For as I walked around looking carefully at your shrines, I
 even discovered an altar inscribed, 'To an Unknown God.'
 What therefore you unknowingly worship, I proclaim to
 you. The God who made the world and all that is in it, the
 Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries
 made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands
 because he needs anything. Rather it is he who gives to
 everyone life and breath and everything. He made from one

the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions, so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being,’ as even some of your poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since therefore we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the divinity is like an image fashioned from gold, silver, or stone by human art and imagination. God has overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he demands that all people everywhere repent because he has established a day on which he will ‘judge the world with justice’ through a man he has appointed, and he has provided confirmation for all by raising him from the dead.”

When they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to scoff, but others said, “We should like to hear you on this some other time.” And so Paul left them. But some did join him, and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the Court of the Areopagus, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

After this he left Athens and went to Corinth.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14

R. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

or: **R**. Alleluia.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels;

praise him, all you his hosts. **R**.

Let the kings of the earth and all peoples,
the princes and all the judges of the earth,
Young men too, and maidens,
old men and boys. **R**7.

Praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven. **R**7.

He has lifted up the horn of his people;
Be this his praise from all his faithful ones,
from the children of Israel, the people close to him.
Alleluia. **R**7.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:16

I will ask the Father
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you always.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 16:12-15

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you to all truth.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this
sacrifice

have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. John 15:16, 19

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, / and
have appointed you to go out and bear fruit, / fruit that
will last, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

For Ever

How much did [God] love us? So much, John the Evangelist tells us, that God sent an only Son that we might not perish but have life without end. “In this is love,” the First Letter of John exclaims, “not that we loved God but that God loved us,” “sent [God’s] Son into the world so that we might live through him” (1 Jn 4:10, 9). If you think the world is a mess now, see it as God saw it from beginning to end, from Adam to Antichrist, and instead of letting it go literally to hell, sent

Jesus to save it. Not a cold gesture of international amnesty: All of you are forgiven. No. God's Son born a baby as we are born, from the body of a woman. God's Son an adolescent who learned as we learn—learned from Mary and Joseph how to love God, how to love the people of Nazareth. A flesh-and-blood Jew who was convicted as a criminal, was lashed with whips and crowned with thorns, died murmuring from bloody lips "Father, forgive [them]." . . .

Not only that. When Jesus returned to his Father wearing our flesh, he did not leave us orphans. He sent us his Holy Spirit, to teach us about God and ourselves; to be our Dynamo, our Power, in our journey to Jerusalem; to live in us as in a temple of God. In his own words the night before he died, "I will ask the Father, and [the Father] will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of Truth . . ." (Jn 14:16-17). . . .

However humbly you think of yourself, however much you may regret what you do *not* have, never forget the supreme gift that is yours, more precious and more lasting than the diamonds that are supposedly for ever. You are a living tabernacle: God is alive in you.

----- Walter Burghardt, *Speak the Word with Boldness*

Walter Burghardt, SJ (1914–2008), spent much of his career as a scholar of Church history and theology. He was a spellbinding preacher whose powerful calls for social justice and understanding influenced generations of priests and pastors.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 76:2-10

O God, you are renowned in Judah;
in Israel your name is great.
You set up your tent in Salem,
and your dwelling place in Zion.
It was there you broke the flaming arrows,
the shield, the sword, the armor.

Resplendent are you, more majestic
than the everlasting mountains.
The stouthearted, despoiled, sank into slumber;
none of the soldiers could lift a hand.
At your threat, O God of Jacob,
horse and rider lay stunned.

You, you alone, strike terror.
Who can stand in your presence,
against the might of your wrath?

You uttered your sentence from the heavens;
the earth in terror was still
when you arose, O God, to judge,
to save all the humble of the earth.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:1-5

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we

have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The Spirit will guide us to all truth.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Saving God, you defend the defenseless and deliver the humble. In hope we pray: **R₇**. Let our boast be in you, O God.

Breathe your wisdom into our prayer and work. **R₇**.

Break the grip of oppressors, and lead those who are fleeing from danger to places of safety. **R₇**.

Heal divisions among Christians, and lead all people to live together in peace. **R₇**.

Our Father . . .

May God be gracious to us, look upon us kindly, and give us peace, through Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Ascension Thursday, May 21

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 99:1-5

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

The LORD is king; the peoples tremble.
God is enthroned on the cherubim; earth quakes.
The LORD is great in Zion,
exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name,
for the Lord our God is holy!
O mighty Ruler, lover of justice,
you have established what is upright;
you have made justice and right in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God;
bow down before God's footstool,
for the Lord our God is holy!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible

clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: / “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Glorious God, on this day Jesus mounts his throne amid the joyous sound of trumpets. We acclaim your greatness and pray: **R7.** Living God, hear our prayer.

Lover of justice, help us to alleviate the burdens of the poor and oppressed. **R7.**

Mighty ruler, anoint your Church to know and proclaim the riches of glory in Christ’s inheritance. **R7.**

King of the nations, bring light and peace to lands devastated by war and violence. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God grant us new life in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mass

*The Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity**

*If the feast of the Ascension is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, this day is observed as an Easter Weekday. See pp. 221–23 for these texts.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? / This
Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven / will return
as you saw him go, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our
Redeemer,
ascended this day to the heavens,
may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:1-11

As the Apostles were looking on, Jesus was lifted up.

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

R₁. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. or: R₁. Alleluia.

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness.
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth. **R₁.**

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R₁.**

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne. **R₁.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

1:17-23

God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens.

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over

all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28:19a, 20b

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:16-20

All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. 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 Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 330)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,
to honor the wondrous Ascension of your Son:
grant, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, / even to the end of the age,
alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that Christian hope may draw us onward
to where our nature is united with you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Capable of Such Blessedness

With all due solemnity we are commemorating that day on which our poor human nature was carried up in Christ above all the hosts of heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father. It is upon this ordered structure of divine acts that we have been firmly established, so that the grace of God may show itself still more marvelous when, in spite of the withdrawal from our sight of everything that is rightly felt to command our reverence, faith does not fail, hope is not shaken, charity does not grow cold.

For such is the power of great minds, such the light of truly believing souls, that they put unhesitating faith in what is not seen with the bodily eye; they fix their desires on what is beyond sight. Such fidelity could never be born in our hearts, nor could anyone be justified by faith, if our salvation lay only in what was visible. This is why Christ said to that man who

seemed doubtful about his resurrection unless he could see and touch the marks of his passion in his very flesh: *You believe because you see me; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.*

It was in order that we might be capable of such blessedness that on the fortieth day after his resurrection . . . our Lord Jesus Christ was taken up to heaven before the eyes of his disciples, and so his bodily presence among them came to an end. From that time onward he was to remain at the Father's right hand until the completion of the period ordained by God for the Church's children to increase and multiply, after which, in the same body with which he ascended, he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

And so what was visible in our Redeemer has passed into the sacraments. Our faith is nobler and stronger because sight has been replaced by a doctrine whose authority is accepted by believing hearts, enlightened from on high.

St. Leo the Great, *Sermon on the Ascension*

St. Leo the Great (ca. 400–461) was elected pope in 440 and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1754.

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

[*St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 68 (67):8-9, 20

O God, when you went forth before your people, /
marching with them and living among them, / the earth
trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who made your people
partakers in your redemption,
grant, we pray,
that we may perpetually render thanks
for the Resurrection of the Lord.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

18:1-8

*Paul stayed with them and worked
and entered into discussions in the synagogue.*

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. He went to visit them and, because he practiced the same trade, stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. Every sabbath, he entered into discussions in the synagogue, attempting to convince both Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began to occupy himself totally with preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. When they opposed him and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your heads! I am clear of responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." So

he left there and went to a house belonging to a man named Titus Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next to a synagogue. Crispus, the synagogue official, came to believe in the Lord along with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians who heard believed and were baptized.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

R7. (see 2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. *or: R*7. Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm. **R**7.

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel. **R**7.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise. **R**7.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 14:18

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 16:16-20

You will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

Jesus said to his disciples: "A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What

does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' of which he speaks? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy." The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, / even to the end of the age,
alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life
in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 98:1-6

O sing a new song to the LORD,
who has worked such wonders,
whose right hand and holy arm
have brought salvation.

The LORD has made known salvation,
has shown deliverance to the nations.
God has remembered faithful love
and truth for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise.

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of

what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened to know how great is our hope.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of the covenant, in Jesus' victory over death you bring peace and life to all creation. In hope we pray:

R7. Raise us to new life in Christ, O God.

Bring wisdom to our hearts, and teach us to live our days in peace. **R7.**

Strengthen us to resist powers that breed violence and injustice. **R7.**

Fulfill the hopes of the faithful departed. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God fill our hearts with rejoicing, lead us to follow Christ, and bring us together to everlasting life. Amen.

Friday, May 22

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 32:1-7

Blessed is one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
Blessed the one to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

I kept it secret and my frame was wasted.
I groaned all day long,
For your hand, by day and by night,
lay heavy upon me.
Indeed, my strength was dried up
as by the summer's heat.

To you I have acknowledged my sin;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said, "I will confess my transgression to the LORD."
And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

So let each faithful one pray to you
in the time of need.
The floods of water may reach high,
but such a one they shall not reach.

You are a hiding place for me;
you keep me safe from distress;
you surround me with cries of deliverance.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 51:9-11

Awake, awake, put on strength, / arm of the LORD! /
Awake as in the days of old, / in ages long ago! / Was
it not you who crushed Rahab, / you who pierced the
dragon? / Was it not you who dried up the sea, / the waters
of the great deep, / You who made the depths of the sea into
a way / for the redeemed to pass through? / Those whom
the LORD has ransomed will return / and enter Zion singing,
/ crowned with everlasting joy; / They will meet with joy
and gladness, / sorrow and mourning will flee.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or
another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Forgiving God, you remove our guilt and renew our
hearts in joy. With trust we pray: **R̄.** Fill us with your
love, O God.

Make us messengers of your peace and grace. **R̄.**

Inspire us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and
ensure clean water for all people. **R̄.**

Comfort and steady the spirits of all who have asked for
our prayer. **R̄.**

Our Father . . .

May God enlighten us to see everyone through the eyes of
faith so that we may recognize always the presence of Christ,
in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Toribio Romo González

Priest and Martyr (1900–1928)

Toribio Romo González, a young Mexican priest, was among twenty-five martyrs of the Cristero Rebellion canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000 with a feast day on May 21. The rebellion, which cost thousands of lives, was set off in 1926 in response to the enforcement of a series of anticlerical provisions that severely restricted practice of the Catholic faith. The rebels, who called themselves Cristeros, fought under the slogan “*Viva Cristo Rey!*”—Long Live Christ the King!

Fr. Toribio had no part in the violence. He had, however, experienced the rising tide of persecution. Confined to his sacristy in Jalisco, he was unable to celebrate Mass in public. In the early morning of February 25, 1928, soldiers burst into his bedroom and shot him. He died in the arms of his sister, who cried out, “Courage, Father Toribio . . . merciful Christ, receive him! Long live Christ the King!”

In recent years, Fr. Toribio has become the object of a growing cult as patron of Mexicans struggling to cross the U.S. border. His grave in Jalisco has become a popular pilgrimage site, fed by the reports of migrants who claim that a mysterious priest called Toribio Romo rescued them in the desert. Many of those who undertake the perilous journey now invoke his prayers and carry his image with them.

“Father Toribio’s philosophy was that hunger knows no border. That’s why many migrants come here and pray to him. They’re putting their faith and lives in his hands.”

—Rev. Gabriel González Pérez,
parish priest at the shrine of San Toribio

Mass

Friday of the Sixth Week of Easter

[*St. Rita of Cascia, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 5:9-10

You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood / from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, / and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who restore us to eternal life
in the Resurrection of Christ,
raise us up, we pray, to the author of our salvation,
who is seated at your right hand,
so that, when our Savior comes again in majesty,
those you have given new birth in Baptism
may be clothed with blessed immortality.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

*In regions where the Solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated
on the following Sunday:*

Hear our prayers, O Lord,
so that what was promised
by the sanctifying power of your Word
may everywhere be accomplished
through the working of the Gospel
and that all your adopted children may attain
what the testimony of truth has foretold.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

18:9-18

I have many people in this city.

One night while Paul was in Corinth, the Lord said to him in a vision, “Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you, for I have many people in this city.” He settled there for a year and a half and taught the word of God among them.

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him to the tribunal, saying, “This man is inducing people to worship God contrary to the law.” When Paul was about to reply, Gallio spoke to the Jews, “If it were a matter of some crime or malicious fraud, I should with reason hear the complaint of you Jews; but since it is a question of arguments over doctrine and titles and your own law, see to it yourselves. I do not wish to be a judge of such matters.” And he drove them away from the tribunal. They all seized Sosthenes, the synagogue official, and beat him in full view of the tribunal. But none of this was of concern to Gallio.

Paul remained for quite some time, and after saying farewell to the brothers he sailed for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had shaved his head because he had taken a vow.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

R. (8a) God is king of all the earth. *or:* **R.** Alleluia.

All you peoples, clap your hands,
 shout to God with cries of gladness,
 For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
 is the great king over all the earth. **R.**

He brings people under us;
 nations under our feet.
 He chooses for us our inheritance,
 the glory of Jacob, whom he loves. **R7.**

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
 the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
 Sing praise to God, sing praise;
 sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 24:46, 26

Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead,
 and so enter into his glory.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 16:20-23

No one will take your joy away from you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.”
 The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your family,
that under your protective care
they may never lose what they have received,
but attain the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Romans 4:25

Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions /
and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray,
those whom you have saved by your kindness,
that, redeemed by the Passion of your Son,
they may rejoice in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection

In Step

I'm not a mother, so I'll have to take Jesus' word for it: labor pains are quickly swamped with joy. What I do know is that however much support a woman has, she ultimately goes through labor alone. There's no going back, and no one can do it for her. It's a lot like grief, so it's not surprising that Jesus drew on childbirth imagery as he prepared the disciples for his death. Death, grief, and childbirth all contain intense struggle at the center, while the rest of the world goes on as if nothing were happening. Those at the center are, you might say, dramatically out of step.

Despite the artistic and literary images of flames licking at the heels of the damned, I believe that hell is ultimately about separation: the separation of a soul that demands to be left alone. But there are glimpses of hell in this lifetime, time-bound, temporary perhaps, but searing intuitions of what “alone” really means. Each death creates a little private hell for those left behind, who weep while others rejoice or just go about their business. Jesus, in compassion, warns his friends that they’re about to find themselves immersed in this grief: baffled and heartbroken, in anguish, dramatically out of step with a world that moves on.

But Jesus knows how the story ends: not in anguish, but in joy—a swamping joy no one can take away. In the end, we need only be in step with him.

..... Susan Pitchford

Susan Pitchford, a sociologist at the University of Washington and Third Order Franciscan, is author of The Sacred Gaze, God in the Dark, and Following Francis: The Franciscan Way for Everyone.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 129

“They have pressed me hard from my youth,”
let Israel sing.

“They have pressed me hard from my youth,
but could never overcome me.

The plowers plowed my back,
drawing long furrows.
Yet the LORD, who is righteous,
has cut the cords of the wicked.”

Let them be shamed and routed,
all those who hate Zion!
Let them be like grass on the roof
that withers before it flowers.

With that no reapers fill their hands,
no binders of sheaves their arms.
And those passing by will not say,
“The blessing of the LORD be upon you!”
We bless you in the name of the LORD!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 John 5:11-15

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God. And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, we know that what we have asked him for is ours.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Healing God, in Christ you make all things new. With faith we pray: **R7.** Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us courage to carry our crosses, face our deaths, and move toward new life. **R7.**

Keep safe those who are in the path of dangerous weather. **R7.**

Ease the reentry of those who have recently been released from prison. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May we prefer nothing to the love of Christ, and may he bring us together to everlasting life. Amen.

Saturday, May 23

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 84:9-13

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

O LORD, God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of my God
I prefer to the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is a sun, a shield;
the LORD will give us favor and glory,
And will not withhold any good
from those who walk without blame.
O LORD of hosts, how blessed
is the one who trusts in you!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 16:28-31

Give to the LORD, you families of nations, / give to the
LORD glory and might; / Give to the LORD the glory

due his name! / Bring gifts, and come before him; / bow down to the LORD, splendid in holiness. / Tremble before him, all the earth; / the world will surely stand fast, never to be moved. / Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; / let them say among the nations: The LORD is king.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of our hearts, to live with you is joy. We praise you and pray: **R7**. Bless us with courage, O God of truth.

For Pope Francis, bishops, and Church leaders, we pray: **R7**.

For those who serve in public office, we pray: **R7**.

For new parents and those who are recently widowed, we pray: **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Jane Addams

Social Reformer (1860–1935)

Jane Addams was born in Cedarville, Illinois. Though she came from a wealthy family her study of the Bible inspired a deep impulse to be of service. Her personal mission took shape after a trip to England in 1888 when she visited a “settlement house” in one of the slums of London. Upon returning she established a similar enterprise in Chicago—Hull House—that remained her home for the rest of her life. Hull House became the model for a network of similar centers. Aside from offering basic services—kindergarten, adult education, medical care, food, and shelter—the aim of Hull House was to promote community and self-respect among the poor. It was a haven for those cast aside by the tide of industrial “progress.”

Though baptized in the Presbyterian Church, Addams remained aloof from organized religion. Yet she saw her work in Hull House and in social reform as consonant with the great humanitarian spirit that animated the early Christian movement. While churches tended to promote “personal virtue,” she believed the time had come to promote the exercise of “social virtue” in the service of humanity.

Addams was a central figure in most of the progressive movements of her day: fighting for child labor laws, women’s rights, housing reform, civil liberties, and racial justice. Her pacifist stance during World War I turned public opinion against her. Nevertheless, in 1931 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

She died on May 21, 1935.

“In his own way each man must struggle, lest the moral law become a far-off abstraction utterly separated from his active life.”

—Jane Addams

Mass

Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. 1 Peter 2:9

O chosen people, proclaim the mighty works of him /
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,
alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son, at his Ascension to the heavens,
was pleased to promise the Holy Spirit to the Apostles,
grant, we pray,
that, just as they received manifold gifts of heavenly teaching,
so on us, too, you may bestow spiritual gifts.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

*In regions where the Solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated
on the following Sunday:*

Constantly shape our minds, we pray, O Lord,
by the practice of good works,
that, trying always for what is better,
we may strive to hold ever fast to the Paschal Mystery.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

18:23-28

Apollos established from the Scriptures that the Christ is Jesus.

After staying in Antioch some time, Paul left and traveled in orderly sequence through the Galatian country and Phrygia, bringing strength to all the disciples.

A Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, an eloquent speaker, arrived in Ephesus. He was an authority on the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord and, with ardent spirit, spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the Way of God more accurately. And when he wanted to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. After his arrival he gave great assistance to those who had come to believe through grace. He vigorously refuted the Jews in public, establishing from the Scriptures that the Christ is Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

47:2-3, 8-9, 10

R7. (8a) God is king of all the earth. *or:* **R7.** Alleluia.

All you peoples, clap your hands;
shout to God with cries of gladness.
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth. **R7.**

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne. **R7.**

The princes of the peoples are gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.
For God's are the guardians of the earth;
he is supreme. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 16:28

I came from the Father and have come into the world;
now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

16:23b-28

*My Father loves you because you have loved me
and believed in me.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

“I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 17:24

Father, I wish that, where I am, / those you gave me may
also be with me, / that they may see the glory that you
gave me, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Of Embers and Fire

“Proclaim the mighty works of [God],” today’s entrance antiphon demands. Here we are: a chosen people, an Easter people, and nearly at Pentecost. But how is our proclaiming these days? How strong is our conviction, our faith in the *risen* Jesus? What difference does Easter make? For that matter, what difference does Pentecost make to us? Perhaps today is a good time for some serious reflection: What difference does my faith make to me—and to others?

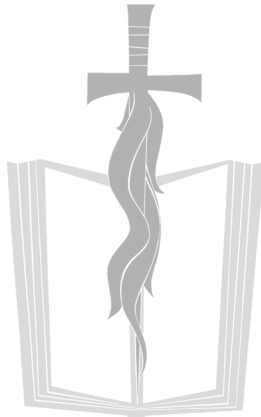
We may have heard the familiar injunction, “Proclaim the Gospel, and if necessary, use words.” That, or some variant, has been attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (though there is no record of him saying it). It is a striking statement, and it should not imply any opposition or tension between our words and actions. But is it relevant to us? Do we even take it seriously in our secular, post-Christian, politically correct world?

A child is so thrilled to celebrate another birthday, or Christmas, that everyone knows about it, before, on, and after the date. But we are not children; of course not. Does that mean we no longer *celebrate* our faith—with due decorum but also with just a little passion? Has the fire gone out, leaving only embers? In the words of another bromide, “If you

were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Trite, perhaps, but arresting in its directness. Well, would there?

Fr. Anthony Gittins

Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp, taught theology and anthropology for many years at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. At present he is an itinerant retreat preacher and presenter on missionary discipleship and intercultural living.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 107:1-3, 10-16

“O give thanks to the LORD who is good,
whose faithful love endures forever.”
Let the redeemed of the LORD say this,
those redeemed from the hand of the foe,
and gathered from far-off lands,
from east and west, north and south.

Some dwelt in darkness and the shadow of death,
prisoners in misery and chains,
having rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the plan of the Most High.
God humbled their heart with toil.
They stumbled; there was no one to help.

Then they cried to the LORD in their need,
and God rescued them from their distress,
leading them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
breaking their chains to pieces.

Let them give thanks for the love of the LORD,
God’s wonders for the human race:
God bursts the gates of bronze,
and cuts through the iron bars.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom

those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The Father himself loves you, because you have loved me.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of goodness, your faithful love endures forever. We pray to you in faith: **R7.** God, in your love, hear our prayer.

Grant rest and healing to those who suffer afflictions of mind, body, or spirit. **R7.**

Help us to teach our children kindness, respect, and unfailing love for truth. **R7.**

Keep alive the memory of our loved ones who have gone before us, and grant them everlasting joy in your presence. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us in faith and lead us to walk in the peace and love of Christ all our days. Amen.



Sunday, May 24

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 100

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before God, singing for joy.

Know that the LORD is God,
who made us, to whom we belong.
We are God's people, the sheep of God's flock.

Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving
and its courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks and bless God's name.

Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal God's merciful love.
God is faithful from age to age.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 30:4-5

Who has gone up to heaven and come down again— /
who has cupped the wind in the hollow of the hand?
/ Who has bound up the waters in a cloak— / who has es-
tablished all the ends of the earth? / What is that person's
name, or the name of his son?"

Every word of God is tested; / he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Father, those whom you gave me have kept your word.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of lasting love, you call us by name, and we belong to you. In thanksgiving we pray: **R7.** Faithful God, receive our prayer.

For Pope Francis, bishops, pastors, and deacons: may they serve by word and example. **R7.**

For all the baptized: may we use our God-given gifts to the fullest for the good of the Church and the life of the world. **R7.**

For people of faith: may all people grow in understanding, respect, and love. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with strong hearts and walk with us in the land of the living, through Jesus, crucified and risen. Amen.

Mass

Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*In those places where the observance of the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to this day, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used (see pp. 215–19).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):7-9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; / of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; / hide not your face from me, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Savior of the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:12-14

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer.

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to

prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

27:1, 4, 7-8

R. (13) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living. *or: R.* Alleluia.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? *R.*

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:
to dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
that I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple. *R.*

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. *R.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

4:13-16

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you.

Beloved: Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cf. John 14:18

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:1-11a

Father, glorify your Son.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 330)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that through these acts of devotedness
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 17:22

Father, I pray that they may be one / as we also are one,
alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear us, O God our Savior,
and grant us confidence,
that through these sacred mysteries
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection

Glorified in Us

Christ is saying that he has glorified his Father by carrying out the task entrusted to him; now he in return must be glorified by the Father. Any glory given him, however, means the glorification of the Father as well, since there is no separation between the two glories. The glory that the Son gives the Father consists in the accomplishment of his mission; he has made the Father known to people who have come to realize that he came from the Father and have accepted the word that had been communicated to the Son and that he in turn

has communicated to them. They have believed, and they know; consequently, they have eternal life, for eternal life consists in knowing the only true God.

The climactic statement in this reading is that Jesus is glorified in his disciples. He can say this because they make clear the successful accomplishment of his mission: he has united them to himself and transformed them into his likeness; they now belong to the Father, just as they do to the Son.

The Son's glory is the Father's glory, and the Father's glory is the Son's glory, and the Son's glory is ours as well.

Fr. Adrien Nocent, *The Liturgical Year*

Adrien Nocent, OSB (1913–1996), was a Belgian monk and professor at the Pontifical Atheneum of Saint Anselm in Rome. He served as a consultor for the Consilium for the Implementation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 117

O praise the LORD, all you nations;
acclaim God, all you peoples!

For God's faithful love toward us is great;
the LORD remains faithful forever.

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 3:4-8

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, was so glorious that the Israelites could not look intently at the face of Moses because of its glory that was going to fade, how much more will the ministry of the Spirit be glorious?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The disciples, men and women, returned to the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of our ancestors, you are forever faithful to your promise. Rejoicing in your love we pray: **R7.** Lead us by your light, O God.

Inspire your Church to greater charity in our love for one another and all people. **R7.**

Animate the human family to protect and care for creation. **R7.**

Grant a peaceful death to the dying, and give eternal life to the faithful departed. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God grant us to know and understand the hope to which we are called in Christ Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May 24–30

Seventh Week of Easter

Within the Word

These Mysterious Sadducees

Readers of the New Testament might get the impression that the Sadducees—who are never mentioned in the Old Testament—were somehow allied to the Pharisees. Both groups, after all, are in Matthew’s Gospel paired in their opposition to John the Baptist and Jesus (Matt 3:7; 16:1, 12). Most people also know, however, that these two groups differed on some essential points. Unlike the Pharisees, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection or in angels (Mark 12:18; Acts 23:8). But what else we do know about these mysterious Sadducees? To address this question, we have to seek information outside the Bible itself.

The Sadducees, who disappeared after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, did not leave any written record of their own. Their precise origins are obscure. It is likely that the name derives from Zadok, the high priest in the time of King David (tenth century BC; 1 Kgs 1:32). They were associated with the priesthood and identified with Jerusalem and its temple, not with the rural regions of Galilee where the “Jesus movement” began. So it is feasible the Sadducees identified with Zadok, taking for themselves the designation *zaddiqim* (“righteous ones,” from the same Hebrew root *zdk*).

The ancient source that tells us the most about the Sadducees is the first-century Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus, who clearly did not like them. He considered them crude and rude, often provoking arguments with otherwise honored teachers of the law. Josephus may have had an axe to grind, so we have to tread carefully around his assertions. Nevertheless, scholarly assessments have gradually provided a more nuanced picture of the Sadducees.

The Sadducees were urbanites from aristocratic, wealthy families. Their alliance with the temple in Jerusalem, and their constant attempts to bolster their Jewish priesthood, created a significant gap between them and other Jews. They would likely have been offended and threatened by some of Jesus' words about the temple (Matt 21:12-13; Mark 15:29). Under Roman rule, the Sadducees were perceived to tolerate, and even cooperate with, the despised Romans. They and the temple establishment were both viewed as corrupt. In light of this, some radical Jews, like the Essenes, fled Jerusalem for the Dead Sea in the desire to preserve a purer form of Judaism in the desert.

The Sadducees, who preferred the written law only, also had little time for the Pharisees, who accepted oral interpretation of the law and the traditions of elders. Later rabbis, descendants of the Pharisees, describe serious differences with the Sadducees beyond the well-known debates about angels, spirits, and resurrection. They also argued over such topics as the rules of purity, temple ritual, and sabbath observance. This coming Thursday's first reading shows how such controversies could erupt in heated debates, as when Paul draws attention to his Pharisaic identity as the reason for being hauled before the Sanhedrin and accused of improper teachings (Acts 23:6-10).

Given this background, it is unlikely from a historical viewpoint that the Pharisees closely joined the Sadducees in opposition to Jesus. Such a perception derives from a later time when Christianity became totally distinct from Judaism. If this extra-biblical material does not reveal all we would wish to know about the Sadducees, it helps lift the veil somewhat.

—Fr. Ronald D. Witherup

Ronald D. Witherup, PSS, is Superior General of the Sulpicians and lives in Paris, France. He is author of numerous books, including Paul: Proclaiming Christ Crucified in the Alive in the Word series and Mercy and the Bible: Why It Matters.

Monday, May 25

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 65:2-4, 6, 9

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

Praise is due to you in Zion, O God.
To you we pay our vows in Jerusalem,
you who hear our prayer.
To you all flesh will come.
Our evil deeds are too heavy for us,
but only you can pardon our transgressions.

With wondrous deliverance you answer us,
O God our savior.
You are the hope of all the earth,
and of far distant seas.

Distant peoples stand in awe
at your wondrous deeds.
The lands of sunrise and sunset
you fill with your joy.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Wisdom 9:13-14, 16-17

Who knows God's counsel, / or who can conceive what
the Lord intends? / For the deliberations of mortals
are timid, / and uncertain our plans. / Scarcely can we guess

the things on earth, / and only with difficulty grasp what is
at hand; / but things in heaven, who can search them out?
/ Or who can know your counsel, unless you give Wisdom
/ and send your holy spirit from on high?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or
another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

The Holy Spirit came upon them and they prophesied.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of peace, you show your care for us in the loving
service of others. We remember those who have died in
service to their country, and we pray: **R**7. Merciful God,
hear us.

Inspire us to find constructive and peaceful ways to heal
hatred and end violence. **R**7.

Grant healing, provision, and support to veterans and
their families. **R**7.

Animate your Church to treat refugees, immigrants, and
migrants with human dignity and loving-kindness. **R**7.

Our Father . . .

May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, now and
forever. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed John of Prado

Franciscan Martyr (d. ca. 1631)

John of Prado was born to a noble family in Spain. After studies at Salamanca University he became an Observant Franciscan. Though he wished to pursue mission work in North Africa, his superiors instead gave him preaching assignments at home. He filled various offices in his order, though at one time he was removed from office on account of some unfounded accusation. After his eventual vindication he was given a new assignment as minister of the province of San Diego.

A number of Franciscans at the time were working in Morocco, particularly among Christian slaves. When they all died during an outbreak of plague John asked permission to replace them. Pope Urban VIII named him apostolic missionary, and he set off with two companions. In Morocco he managed to gain access to the Christian slaves and ministered to them, bolstering their faith and providing the sacraments. When his activities were discovered he was imprisoned in chains and forced to turn a grindstone. Brought before the sultan he proclaimed his faith and refused to apostatize. After being scourged he was again returned for examination. This time John began to preach to the audience, which included a number of Christian apostates. This enraged the sultan, who struck him to the ground and ordered his execution. He was burned alive in the public square, all the while singing Christ's praises.

John of Prado was beatified in 1728.

“God wills that I should suffer. May His will be done.”

—Blessed John of Prado

Mass

Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter

[St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi,
opt. memorials]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Acts 1:8

You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you, / and you will be my witnesses, / even to the ends of the earth, alleluia.

COLLECT

May the power of the Holy Spirit
come to us, we pray, O Lord,
that we may keep your will faithfully in mind
and express it in a devout way of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

19:1-8

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and down to Ephesus where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." He said, "How were you baptized?" They replied, "With the baptism of John." Paul then said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands on them,

the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Altogether there were about twelve men.

He entered the synagogue, and for three months debated boldly with persuasive arguments about the Kingdom of God. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab

R7. (33a) Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

or: **R7.** Alleluia.

God arises; his enemies are scattered,
and those who hate him flee before him.
As smoke is driven away, so are they driven;
as wax melts before the fire. **R7.**

But the just rejoice and exult before God;
they are glad and rejoice.

Sing to God, chant praise to his name;
whose name is the LORD. **R7.**

The father of orphans and the defender of widows
is God in his holy dwelling.

God gives a home to the forsaken;
he leads forth prisoners to prosperity. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3:1

If then you were raised with Christ,
seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 16:29-33

Take courage, I have conquered the world.

The disciples said to Jesus, “Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech. Now we realize that you know everything and that you do not need to have any-one question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this unblemished sacrifice purify us, O Lord,
and impart to our minds
the force of grace from on high.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 14:18; 16:22

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; / I will come to you again, and your heart will rejoice, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Reassuring Presence

When the ones we love are absent, it is easy to feel lost. Even if we are home and surrounded by the familiarity of our personal belongings, we can feel misplaced and unsure of ourselves. When this happens to me, I tend to shut down and retreat into my anxiety. I find it hard to go out into the world and be myself. In these difficult moments, I need reassurance. The voice of my wife over the phone, or the photographs of my friends and family can bring me back to myself. A phone call is not my wife, and photographs are not my family. However, these things remind me of their love and make them truly present.

In a similar way, today's readings give us words of reassurance. Jesus warns his disciples that they, too, will feel scattered and alone. Yet they are not—and never will be—abandoned. And so for us. The Holy Spirit is the saving love of Jesus given to us through the life of the Church. Although Jesus is absent, he is truly present.

At times, we Christians will feel alone and lost. At these times, we can recall that we have been baptized into a communion of saints that is alive with the love of Christ. When we experience the Holy Spirit through the loving friendship of others, we are reassured of Christ's unwavering love. We are thus encouraged to become that comforting and consoling love for others who are lost.

David Farina Turnbloom

David Farina Turnbloom is assistant professor of theology at the University of Portland.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 85:2-8

O LORD, you have favored your land,
and brought back the captives of Jacob.
You forgave the guilt of your people,
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage;
you turned back the heat of your anger.

Bring us back, O God, our savior!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will your anger last from age to age?

Will you not restore again our life,
that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves [also] the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who

[indeed] is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

We believe that you came from God.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of salvation, in Jesus you restore our life in you.
Trusting in your mercy we pray: **R**. Faithful God, come to our aid.

For collaborative efforts to address the root causes of poverty and violence so that justice and the common good may be served, we pray: **R**.

For the safe travel of vacationers, workers, and pilgrims, we pray: **R**.

For those who have died in service to their country and for all our beloved dead, we pray: **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God show us mercy and grant us salvation, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

Tuesday, May 26

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 5:2-8

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

To my words give ear, O LORD;
give heed to my sighs.
Attend to the sound of my cry,
my Sovereign and my God.

To you do I pray, O LORD.
In the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I plead and watch before you.

You are no God who delights in evil;
no sinner is your guest.
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes.

All who do evil you despise;
all who lie you destroy.
Whoever speaks lies and sheds blood
the LORD detests.

Yet through the greatness of your faithful love,
I enter your house.
I bow down before your holy temple,
in awe of you.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Wisdom 15:1-3

You, our God, are good and true, / slow to anger, and
governing all with mercy. / For even if we sin, we are

yours, and know your might; / but we will not sin, knowing that we belong to you. / For to know you well is complete righteousness, / and to know your might is the root of immortality.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

This is eternal life, to know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you sent.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Eternal God, you radiated your love in the joy of your servant St. Philip Neri. Animated by the same spirit we pray: **R**. Make us instruments of your peace, O God.

Guide the ministry of evangelization in your Church. **R**.

Help teachers, coaches, and youth directors to serve with patience, kindness, and love. **R**.

Move us to greater compassion and care for the sick. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God fill our hearts with a deep love for Jesus that draws us and all people more deeply into the body of Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Philip Neri

Founder, Congregation of the Oratory (1515–1595)

Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515. After experiencing a dramatic conversion, he spurned worldly success and set off for Rome, with no special plan aside from a general desire to serve God. The once-proud city had fallen into a state of moral and spiritual disrepair. An era of corrupt and worldly Renaissance popes had fostered a general apathy, if not cynicism, regarding the Christian message. In this atmosphere, Neri conceived his vocation: nothing less than the re-evangelization of Rome.

He began simply by standing on street corners and striking up conversations with passersby. In every conversation he introduced the topic of religion and inquired about the state of his new friend's soul. Such conversations often continued during a walk to a local church or to a hospital to visit the sick. Before long Neri's circle of friends and his reputation had spread, and all types of people sought his company.

In 1551 he became a priest. He would invite mixed groups of clergy and laymen to his quarters for prayer and spiritual reflection. They called themselves Oratorians, which ultimately became the name of a new congregation. Even while he lived, Neri was widely revered as a saint, if not the spiritual heart of Rome. His influence was remarkable, given that he wrote no books and proposed no original theology. He simply radiated a spirit of joy and holiness and so elevated the spiritual level of his time. He died on May 26, 1595.

“A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one.”

—St. Philip Neri

Mass

St. Philip Neri, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Romans 5:5; cf. 8:11

The love of God has been poured into our hearts /
through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who never cease to bestow the glory of holiness
on the faithful servants you raise up for yourself,
graciously grant
that the Holy Spirit may kindle in us that fire
with which he wonderfully filled
the heart of Saint Philip Neri.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

20:17-27

*I am finishing my course and the ministry
that I received from the Lord Jesus.*

From Miletus Paul had the presbyters of the Church at Ephesus summoned. When they came to him, he addressed them, “You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, and I did not at all shrink from telling you what was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. I earnestly bore witness for both Jews and Greeks to repentance before God and to faith in our Lord Jesus. But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem. What will happen to me there I do not know, except that in one city

after another the Holy Spirit has been warning me that imprisonment and hardships await me. Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the Gospel of God's grace.

“But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels will ever see my face again. And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

68:10-11, 20-21

R. (33a) Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

or: **R.** Alleluia.

A bountiful rain you showered down, O God, upon your inheritance;
you restored the land when it languished;
Your flock settled in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided it for the needy. **R.**

Blessed day by day be the Lord,
who bears our burdens; God, who is our salvation.
God is a saving God for us;
the LORD, my Lord, controls the passageways of death. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:16

I will ask the Father
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you always.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:1-11a*Father, glorify your Son.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you the sacrifice of praise, O Lord,
we ask that by the example of Saint Philip
we may always give ourselves cheerfully
for the glory of your name
and the service of our neighbor.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 15:9

As the Father loves me, so I also love you; / remain in my love, says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
we pray, O Lord,
that in imitation of Saint Philip
we may always long for that food by which we truly live.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

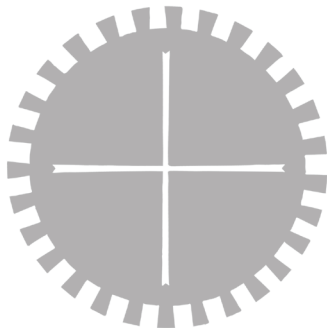
To Know Immediately

Jesus' prayer embraces a desire to bestow eternal life on his disciples. And what is eternal life? *"Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ"* (John 17:3). Eternal life is knowing Jesus. How can we experience eternal life through knowing Jesus? This is an important question. I encourage you to put it in the backpack of your soul and take it for a long, leisurely walk: eternal life is to know God and to know Jesus. The word *know* is one of deep intimacy in biblical language. This was the word used to describe the intimate love relationship between husband and wife. Keeping this in mind, then, reflect on your knowing God as union with God. This union is the eternal life that can begin here on earth. This is what Jesus was trying to teach his disciples. Recall the conversation Jesus had with his apostles in John 14:9. When Philip says, *"show us the Father,"* Jesus' answer clearly states that if his disciples know him, they also know the Father.

Jesus' remarks about eternal life and knowing God are a reminder that although we are disciples of Jesus, we ultimately belong to the one who created us. It is the spirit of Jesus who sanctifies us and shares with us divine life. Each of us is called to a deep union with God. That union is the beginning of eternal life.

Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, *Abide*

Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, is well known for her creative spiritual writings and retreat ministry. She makes her home with the Sisters of St. Scholastica in Fort Smith, Arkansas.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 30:2-6, 11-13

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up,
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have lifted up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit.

Sing psalms to the LORD, you faithful ones;
give thanks to God's holy name.

Divine anger lasts a moment, but favor all through life.
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy.

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me;
be my helper, O LORD.

You have changed my mourning into dancing,
removed my sackcloth and girded me with joy.
So let my soul sing psalms to you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will thank you forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:24-27

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past.

But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I consider life of no importance, if only I may bear witness to the Gospel of God's grace.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Healing God, you restore us to life. In faith we pray:

R7. Favor us with your love, O God.

Uphold and prosper pregnancy care centers, maternity homes, and other alternatives to abortion. **R7.**

Give us courage to face our trials and ask for help when we need it. **R7.**

Keep us mindful of those who are recovering from tragedy of any kind. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God grant us the grace to know the power of Christ's love and to walk confidently along the way that leads to everlasting life. Amen.

Wednesday, May 27

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 147:12-20

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

O Jerusalem, glorify the LORD!
O Zion, praise your God,
who has strengthened the bars of your gates,
and has blessed your children within you;
who established peace on your borders,
and gives you your fill of finest wheat.

The Lord sends out his word to the earth;
the divine command runs swiftly.
God showers down snow like wool,
and scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

The Lord hurls down hailstones like crumbs;
before such cold, who can stand?
God sends forth a word and it melts them;
at the blowing of God's breath the waters flow.

The Lord reveals a word to Jacob;
to Israel, decrees and judgments.
God has not dealt thus with other nations,
has not taught them heaven's judgments.

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 22:31-33

Be careful to observe my commandments. I am the LORD. Do not profane my holy name, that in the midst of the Israelites I may be hallowed. I, the LORD, make you holy, who led you out of the land of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of marvelous deeds, by your creative word all things are made. We humbly pray to you: **R7.** God, in your wisdom, hear our prayer.

You heal the brokenhearted: comfort those who suffer the death of a loved one. **R7.**

You uphold the poor: strengthen your Church's preferential option for those who live in poverty. **R7.**

You favor those who trust in your mercy: attend to the pleas of those who are in danger. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us in faith, hope, and love and fill us with peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Melangell of Wales

Abbess (Seventh Century)

According to legend, Melangell was the daughter of an Irish king who wished her to marry. As Melangell had already bound herself by a vow to God, she chose instead to flee to Powys, a remote part of Wales, where she remained in seclusion for fifteen years. There one day in a forest clearing she was discovered in prayer by the local prince. His hunting hounds had pursued a hare, which deftly took shelter in Melangell's robes. When the prince asked Melangell to explain herself, she related her story. So moved was the prince that he offered her the land on which she stood as a "perpetual asylum and refuge"—not just for hares but for all who might flee harm.

There Melangell lived out the rest of her life, eventually attracting a community, for whom she served as abbess. The legend relates that this site did indeed become a haven for hares, who gathered without fear, along with many pilgrims drawn to the shrine of St. Melangell.

"I perceive that thou art the handmaiden of the true God. Because it hath pleased Him for thy merits to give protection to this little wild hare . . . I give and present to thee these my lands for the service of God, to be a perpetual asylum and refuge. If any men or women flee hither to seek thy protection . . . let no prince or chieftain be so rash towards God as to attempt to drag them forth."

—Prince of Powys to St. Melangell

Mass

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter

[St. Augustine of Canterbury, opt. memorial]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Psalm 47 (46):2

All peoples, clap your hands. / Cry to God with shouts of joy, alleluia.

COLLECT

Graciously grant to your Church, O merciful God, that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, she may be devoted to you with all her heart and united in purity of intent.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

20:28-38

I commend you to God who has the power to build you up and to give you an inheritance.

At Miletus, Paul spoke to the presbyters of the Church of Ephesus: “Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the Church of God that he acquired with his own Blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears. And now I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. I have never

wanted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You know well that these very hands have served my needs and my companions. In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

When he had finished speaking he knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all weeping loudly as they threw their arms around Paul and kissed him, for they were deeply distressed that he had said that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab

R. (33a) Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

or: **R.** Alleluia.

Show forth, O God, your power,
 the power, O God, with which you took our part;
 For your temple in Jerusalem
 let the kings bring you gifts. **R.**

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God,
 chant praise to the Lord
 who rides on the heights of the ancient heavens.
 Behold, his voice resounds, the voice of power:
 "Confess the power of God!" **R.**

Over Israel is his majesty;
 his power is in the skies.
 Awesome in his sanctuary is God, the God of Israel;
 he gives power and strength to his people. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 17:17b, 17a

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
consecrate us in the truth.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

17:11b-19

May they be one just as we are one.

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying: “Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the sacrifices instituted by your commands,
and through the sacred mysteries,
which we celebrate as our dutiful service,
graciously complete the sanctifying work
by which you are pleased to redeem us.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 15:26-27

When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send you, / the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, / he will bear witness to me, / and you also will bear witness, says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May our partaking of this divine Sacrament, O Lord, constantly increase your grace within us, and, by cleansing us with its power, make us always ready to receive so great a gift. Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Manifold of Gifts

As we anticipate the celebration of the feast of Pentecost, we receive a “double-dipper” in the readings from Acts and the Gospel of John. Both Jesus and Paul, in speaking to their respective communities, have a profound sense of how vulnerable these communities are, how easy it will be for them to fall apart.

Jesus adamantly urges his disciples to be one as he and the Father are one. This unity is not an add-on, it is not optional; it is an indicator of the integrity and fidelity of the disciples in living the reign of God that Jesus proclaimed. The guarantor of this unity is the presence of the Holy Spirit. For this unity is not mere uniformity, but it is the manifold of gifts operating in each believer. These gifts are amplified in each other’s presence, given to each individual and to the community through our baptism into the dying and rising of Jesus.

When a community is living in the Spirit and out of its consecration to the truth, it will resist the forces of disunity all around them. Paul elsewhere is particularly descriptive in his list of those habits and sins that tear at the edges and the center of a faithful Christian community (2 Tim 3:1-4 and 4:3-4). Today in Acts, Paul names humble service, generosity to those who need resources, and assistance to the weak and the needy as precisely those actions that build and restore trust. This is what takes us beyond self-absorption and our underdeveloped imagination for unity.

How do we, how do I, practice an active commitment to unity in family and community?

Abbot John Klassen

John Klassen, OSB, is abbot of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 137:1-6

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
“Sing to us,” they said,
“one of Zion’s songs.”

O how could we sing
the song of the LORD
on foreign soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue hold fast to my palate
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem, the first of my joys!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

To this end, we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you,

and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Awesome God, we recall your mighty power and offer our needs to your care as we pray: **R**. Be with us, O God.

Help us to persevere in following the Gospel. **R**.

Give direction and courage to those who are discerning a call to the priesthood, religious life, or lay ministry. **R**.

Inspire and protect missionaries, first responders, and emergency aid workers. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God make us worthy of the promises of Christ and bring to fulfillment every purpose and every work of faith, that Jesus may be glorified in us. Amen.

Thursday, May 28

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 37:7-11, 32-34

(opt. hymn, pp. 356-61)

Be still before the LORD and wait in patience;
do not fret at the one who prospers,
the one who makes evil plots.

Calm your anger and forget your rage;
do not fret, it only leads to evil.
For those who do evil shall perish.
But those who hope in the LORD,
they shall inherit the land.

A little longer—and the wicked are gone.
Look at their place: they are not there.
But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight in fullness of peace.

The wicked keep watch for the righteous,
and seek an occasion to destroy them.
The LORD will not leave them in their power,
nor let them be condemned when they are judged.

Then wait for the LORD, keep to the way.
God will exalt you to inherit the land,
and you will see the wicked cut off.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 54:8-10

In an outburst of wrath, for a moment / I hid my face from you; / But with enduring love I take pity on you, / says the LORD, your redeemer.

This is for me like the days of Noah: / As I swore then that the waters of Noah / should never again flood the earth, / So I have sworn now not to be angry with you, / or to rebuke you. / Though the mountains fall away / and the hills be shaken, / My love shall never fall away from you / nor my covenant of peace be shaken, / says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I have loved you with an everlasting love.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of everlasting love, you uphold the faithful. In trust we pray: **R7**. Fill us with your peace, O God.

Sustain the hope of immigrants, refugees, and migrants who are separated from their families. **R7**.

Protect the unborn, and show your tender care to women who face a crisis pregnancy. **R7**.

Comfort those who mourn and feel the sting of death. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and minds by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed Margaret Pole

Martyr (1473–1541)

Margaret Plantagenet was an English noblewoman of high estate, given in marriage to Sir Richard Pole, with whom she bore five children. When her husband died, King Henry VIII called her the saintliest woman in England and named her countess of Salisbury. Upon the birth of his daughter Mary, by Catherine of Aragon, Margaret was appointed the child's governess. But later, when Henry became aware of her disapproval of his marriage to Anne Boleyn, he had her banished from the court.

Margaret's son Reginald (who would later become a cardinal and Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Queen Mary) wrote a tract against the king's claims of ecclesiastical supremacy. In retaliation, Henry vowed to destroy the whole family. Margaret was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London, where she suffered from the extreme cold. Rather than face a jury, she was convicted of treason by an act of Parliament, and was beheaded on May 28, 1541, at the age of sixty-seven. It required ten blows from the axe of the inexperienced executioner to end her life.

She was beatified in 1886.

“For traitors on the block should die; / I am no traitor, no, not I! / My faithfulness stands fast and so, / Towards the block I shall not go! / Nor make one step, as you shall see; / Christ in Thy Mercy, save Thou me!”

—Poem found carved on the wall of Margaret Pole's cell

Mass

Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hebrews 4:16

With boldness let us approach the throne of grace, / that we may receive mercy / and find grace as a timely help, alleluia.

COLLECT

May your Spirit, O Lord, we pray,
imbue us powerfully with spiritual gifts,
that he may give us a mind pleasing to you
and graciously conform us to your will.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

22:30; 23:6-11

You must bear witness in Rome.

Wishing to determine the truth about why Paul was being accused by the Jews, the commander freed him and ordered the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin to convene. Then he brought Paul down and made him stand before them.

Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; I am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the group became divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, while the Pharisees acknowledge all three. A great uproar occurred, and some scribes belonging to the Pharisee party stood up and sharply

argued, “We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?” The dispute was so serious that the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, ordered his troops to go down and rescue Paul from their midst and take him into the compound. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

R. (1) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

or: R. Alleluia.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;

I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.”

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,

you it is who hold fast my lot. **R.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;

even in the night my heart exhorts me.

I set the LORD ever before me;

with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **R.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,

my body, too, abides in confidence;

Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,

nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo

corruption. **R.**

You will show me the path to life,

fullness of joys in your presence,

the delights at your right hand forever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 17:21

May they all be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that the world may believe that you sent me, says the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-26

May they all be one.

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 16:7

I tell you the truth, it is for your good that I go; / for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you, / says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the mysteries we have received, O Lord, we pray, enlighten us by the instruction they bring and restore us through our participation in them, that we may merit the gifts of the Spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Rock, Not a Rift

A friend is dying. Her daughter, long estranged, refuses still to talk. No word, no touch, no tears pass between them. Everyone who hears of this bitter division is shocked. Most of us are Christians. And yet we accept the same estrangement between Christians, *between us*, sisters and brothers, as routine. So it has been since long before any of us were born. We live and worship as though Jesus had declared, not a rock, but a rift, sending the apostles out to build a universal version of Babel's tower.

Today's Gospel shows us Jesus at prayer. He is praying for those who follow him on earth, "but also for those who will believe in me." Jesus is praying for us. He is praying that we "may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you." Jesus is praying that the Church throughout the world, and throughout time, might be a reflection of the oneness of the Father and the Son. Jesus prays for this unity for the life of

the world, “that the world may believe that you sent me.” In our unity we are to show the world the face of God.

Like Paul in Jerusalem, we are more willing to witness our faith at home. Jerusalem is a place where Paul, a Pharisee, can make his case to other Pharisees. Even in his trials there, Paul is surrounded by fellow Jews. But God calls Paul out of Jerusalem, telling him, “Take courage . . . you must also bear witness in Rome.” Rome, in this context, can be anywhere we are a stranger. To what are we to bear witness there? Perhaps we begin by grieving together, sharing our heartbreak over the ruptures we ignore, the face of God we disfigure in our disunity.

-----Melissa Musick Nussbaum

Melissa Musick Nussbaum is a religious educator, speaker, and the author of numerous books, most recently The Catholic Catalogue: A Field Guide to the Daily Acts That Make Up a Catholic Life. Visit her website, thecatholiccatalogue.com.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 145:1-9

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name forever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
God's greatness cannot be measured.

Age to age shall proclaim your works,
shall declare your mighty deeds.
They will tell of your great glory and splendor,
and recount your wonderful works.

They will speak of your awesome deeds,
recount your greatness and might.
They will recall your abundant goodness,
and sing of your righteous deeds with joy.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good are you, O LORD, to all,
compassionate to all your creatures.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6:12-15a

Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge [you] before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who

gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession, to keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ that the blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

I am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of all creation, you are merciful and kind to every creature. In faith we pray: **R/**. Let us recall your abundant goodness, O God.

Nurture Easter joy in the hearts of all the baptized, and animate us to proclaim the good news through the gifts we have been given. **R/**.

Lead us to rejoice in the giftedness and good fortune of others. **R/**.

Make us mindful of the fragility and magnificent beauty of the natural world. **R/**.

Our Father . . .

May God surround us with the peace of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday, May 29

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 51:12-19

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
that sinners may return to you.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and then my tongue shall ring out your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight;
burnt offering from me would not please you.
My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit:
a broken and humbled heart,
you will not spurn, O God.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 23:3-4

■ myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have banished them and bring them back

to their folds; there they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear or be terrified; none shall be missing—oracle of the LORD.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Jesus commissioned Peter to feed his flock.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God our savior, you lavish gifts on your Church and all creation. We praise you and pray: **R7.** God, in your kindness, hear our prayer.

Strengthen us in our vocation, give us joy in serving one another, and help us to be faithful. **R7.**

Guide those who seek to be healed of addiction, and care for the needs of their families. **R7.**

Help us to find joy in the beauty of the natural world and the creatures of Earth. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God grant that where Christ is we also may be, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Ursula Ledóchowska

Founder, Grey Ursulines (1865–1939)

Julia Ledóchowska was born into a remarkable Polish family. Her younger brother became provincial superior of the Jesuits in Poland, while a younger sister, founder of the Sodality of St. Peter Claver, was beatified in 1975. In 1886 Julia entered the Ursuline Order and assumed the religious name of the order's patron saint. She spent the next twenty-one years in the convent in Krakow. In 1907 she was among several sisters sent to St. Petersburg to run a boarding school for girls. From there, after the outbreak of World War I, she moved to Stockholm and Denmark, where she established a school for girls and helped with war refugees.

With the establishment of an independent Polish republic she and her sisters returned to Poland. There, with support from Rome, she established a separate Ursuline congregation known as the Grey Ursulines, who combined education with work among the poor. By the time of her death on May 29, 1939, she had become an important figure in the religious and cultural life of her country. In his homily at her canonization in 2003, Pope John Paul II hailed her as “an apostle of the new evangelization, demonstrating a constant timeliness, creativity, and the effectiveness of gospel love by her life and action. . . . From her we can learn how to put into practice every day the ‘new’ commandment of love.”

“It is not enough to pray, ‘Thy Kingdom come,’ but to work, so that the Kingdom of God will exist among us today.”

—St. Ursula Ledóchowska

Mass

Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Revelation 1:5-6

Christ loved us and washed us clean of our sins by his Blood, / and made us into a kingdom, / priests for his God and Father, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who by the glorification of your Christ and the light of the Holy Spirit have unlocked for us the gates of eternity, grant, we pray, that, partaking of so great a gift, our devotion may grow deeper and our faith be strengthened. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

25:13b-21

Jesus was dead, whom Paul claimed to be alive.

King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea on a visit to Festus. Since they spent several days there, Festus referred Paul's case to the king, saying, "There is a man here left in custody by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and demanded his condemnation. I answered them that it was not Roman practice to hand over an accused person before he has faced his accusers and had the opportunity to defend himself against their charge. So when they came together here, I made no delay; the next day I took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be

brought in. His accusers stood around him, but did not charge him with any of the crimes I suspected. Instead they had some issues with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who had died but who Paul claimed was alive. Since I was at a loss how to investigate this controversy, I asked if he were willing to go to Jerusalem and there stand trial on these charges. And when Paul appealed that he be held in custody for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab

R7. (19a) The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

or: **R7.** Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **R7.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us. **R7.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, all you his angels,
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:26

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything
and remind you of all I told you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 21:15-19*Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.*

After Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and eaten breakfast with them, he said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to Simon Peter a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look mercifully, O Lord, we pray,
upon the sacrificial gifts of your people,
and, that they may become acceptable to you,
let the coming of the Holy Spirit
cleanse our consciences.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 16:13

When the Spirit of truth comes, / he will teach you all truth, says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, by whose mysteries we are cleansed and nourished, grant, we pray, that this banquet which you give us may bring everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

With Due Affection

What was said to Peter, “*Feed my sheep*,” was said to all [the apostles]. *The other apostles were Peter’s equals, but the first place was granted to Peter* [cf. Mt 16:18-19], so that the unity of the Church might be set forth. . . . [M]any of [the apostles’ successors] are proven to have glorified their Maker by their deaths, and all of them by their lives. Not only these great luminaries of the Church, but the rest of the throng of the elect as well, each in his own time, glorifies God by his life or by his death.

We too must follow in their footsteps in our own time by directing our lives after the example of those who are good, and by persisting even to death in our proposed righteousness of life. Then, as companions of their way of life, we may deserve to be made companions also of their recompense. We shall accomplish this if, according to the content of this most sacred reading, we hold fast to our Redeemer with due

affection, and if we watch out with solicitude for the salvation of our neighbor. He assists us who orders us to do these things, and promises that he will repay us for what we have done, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God throughout all ages of ages. Amen.

St. Bede the Venerable, *Homilies on the Gospels*

Bede the Venerable (ca. 673–735) devoted his life to the study of Scripture, to teaching and writing, and to prayer. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1899.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 119:9-16

How shall a youth remain pure on life's way?
By obeying your word.
I seek you with all my heart;
let me not stray from your commands.

I treasure your word in my heart,
lest I sin against you.
Blest are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

With my lips have I recounted
all the decrees of your mouth.
I rejoice in the way of your precepts,
as though all riches were mine.

I will ponder your precepts,
and consider your paths.
I take delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 5:1-4

So I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. Tend the flock of God in your midst, [overseeing] not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be

examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Do you love me? Tend my sheep.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Shepherding God, you guide your flock with loving care. In hope we pray: **R**. Gather your people as one body in Christ.

Inspire just immigration reform that protects the inherent dignity of all people as children of God. **R**.

Heal those who anguish over wrongdoing, and give them peace. **R**.

Foster fruitful dialogue between Pope Francis, bishops, and young Catholic families. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us, protect us, and lead us to everlasting joy, in Jesus our peace. Amen.

Saturday, May 30

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 124

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

“If the LORD had not been on our side,”
let Israel say –

“If the LORD had not been on our side
when people rose against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled.

“Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our head would have swept
the raging waters.”

Blest be the LORD who did not give us
as prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler.

Indeed, the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:13-15, 16b-17

O Hope of Israel, LORD! / all who forsake you shall be
put to shame; / The rebels shall be enrolled in the

netherworld; / they have forsaken the LORD, source of living waters.

Heal me, LORD, that I may be healed; / save me, that I may be saved, / for you are my praise. / See how they say to me, / "Where is the word of the LORD? / Let it come to pass!" / You know what passed my lips; / it is present before you. / Do not become a terror to me, / you are my refuge in the day of disaster.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

On account of the hope of Israel I wear these chains.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Liberating God, you bring us to the fullness of life. In hope we pray: **R̄.** Send us your Spirit, O God.

Help us to address conflict and disagreements with respect and humble love. **R̄.**

Bring wisdom to our hearts, and direct our energy toward spreading the good news. **R̄.**

Inspire elected leaders to abolish exclusion and promote equality among women and men. **R̄.**

Our Father . . .

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us forever. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Marc Sangnier

Founder of the Sillon Movement (1873–1950)

Marc Sangnier, who was born in France to a wealthy family, determined from an early age to apply his faith to the social problems of his day. With fellow Catholic students he formed a study circle to examine social reality in the light of Catholic teaching. Entering the world of the workers, they sought to establish personal contacts and friendships. These efforts found encouragement in *Rerum Novarum*, the first great social encyclical by Pope Leo XIII in 1891.

In a newspaper called *Le Sillon* (“The Furrow”), founded in 1894, Sangnier tried to reconcile the principles of Catholicism with democracy and social justice. This became the foundation for a lay movement of the same name that attracted thousands of idealistic youth. Sangnier conceived of the movement as a kind of leaven to elevate the spiritual and social consciousness of French society.

Many of the bishops supported this endeavor. But with its growth came growing opposition. Conservative “integralists” charged that Sangnier wanted to introduce democracy even into the Church. In 1910 they successfully pressed Pope Pius X to condemn the movement.

Afterward, many of Sangnier’s supporters urged him to defy the pope. But he obediently complied with the Vatican decree, believing this sacrifice was the best means to “serve the cause to which I have devoted my life . . . to give to the Republic a moral inspiration and to the democracy a Christian spirit.”

Sangnier never again achieved social prominence. He died on May 28, 1950.

“The truth must be sought with all one’s soul. . . . Love is stronger than hate.”

—Marc Sangnier

Mass

Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Acts 1:14

The disciples devoted themselves with one accord to prayer / with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, / and his brethren, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we, who have celebrated the paschal festivities,
may by your gift hold fast to them
in the way that we live our lives.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 28:16-20, 30-31

Paul remained at Rome, proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

When he entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered he said to them, "My brothers, although I had done nothing against our people or our ancestral customs, I was handed over to the Romans as a prisoner from Jerusalem. After trying my case the Romans wanted to release me, because they found nothing against me deserving the death penalty. But when the Jews objected, I was obliged to appeal to Caesar, even though I had no accusation to make against my own nation. This is the reason, then, I have requested to see you and to speak with you, for it is on account of the hope of Israel that I wear these chains."

He remained for two full years in his lodgings. He received all who came to him, and with complete assurance and without hindrance he proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

11:4, 5 and 7

R. (see 7b) The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

or: **R.** Alleluia.

The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD's throne is in heaven.

His eyes behold,
his searching glance is on mankind. **R.**

The LORD searches the just and the wicked;
the lover of violence he hates.

For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds;
the upright shall see his face. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 16:7, 13

I will send to you the Spirit of truth, says the Lord;
he will guide you to all truth.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 21:20-25

*This is the disciple who has written these things
and his testimony is true.*

Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me." So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him

that he would not die, just “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?”

It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit coming near, we pray, O Lord,
prepare our minds for the divine Sacrament,
since the Spirit himself is the remission of all sins.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 16:14

The Holy Spirit will glorify me, / for he will take from
what is mine and declare it to you, / says the Lord, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear in your compassion our prayers, O Lord,
that, as we have been brought
from things of the past to new mysteries,
so, with former ways left behind,
we may be made new in holiness of mind.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

God's Concern

Sometimes the best reminders come in the form of a question.

What concern is it of yours? You follow me.

More than telling Peter not to worry about what will come of John, Jesus is telling Peter to remember who he is. Don't worry about John, Jesus seems to say, what matters in this moment is us.

After all, Jesus had just given Peter the opportunity to reconcile their relationship. "Do you love me?" he asks Peter, not once but three times. And with each affirmative response, Jesus calls Peter to more—to remember, to love, and to follow him.

This is God's concern: that each person is loved abundantly and treated with dignity, so they may do likewise.

God's concern is not about how we measure up to one another, but how we meet the measure of God's love and grace. So often we can get caught up in what others are doing or thinking or feeling. While these concerns can lead to compassion, they can also lead us astray, down the paralyzing path of worry, comparison, and despair.

Peter is clearly called and loved, yet, like so many of us, he gets distracted by other concerns. Perhaps he desired companionship or maybe he was comparing himself to John. No matter the motivation, Jesus reminds Peter his call is to follow and that God's concerns, not his, are at the root of that call.

God is the one who sends us out, who loves us beyond our recall and reminds us that we are his beloved disciples, called to tend to his concerns and, ultimately, to live in his love.

..... Sr. Colleen Gibson

Colleen Gibson is a Sister of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia. Author of the blog Wandering in Wonder (beingmyvocation.blogspot.com), she serves as director of services at the SSJ Neighborhood Center in Camden, New Jersey.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 81:2-4, 6c-11

Sing joyfully to God our strength,
shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.
Raise a song and sound the timbrel,
the sweet-sounding lyre with the harp;
blow the trumpet at the new moon,
when the moon is full, on our feast.

A voice I did not know said to me:
“I freed your shoulder from the burden;
your hands were freed from the builder’s basket.
You called in distress and I delivered you.

“I answered, concealed in the thunder;
at the waters of Meribah I tested you.
Listen, my people, as I warn you.
O Israel, if only you would heed!

“Let there be no strange god among you,
nor shall you worship a foreign god.
I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.”

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:21-26

T]o me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living
in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do

not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, [for] that is far better. Yet that I remain [in] the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. And this I know with confidence, that I shall remain and continue in the service of all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound on account of me when I come to you again.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Remain in Christ and you will have eternal life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, your life-giving word is the source of our joy. In Jesus' name we pray: **R7.** God of the living, hear our prayer.

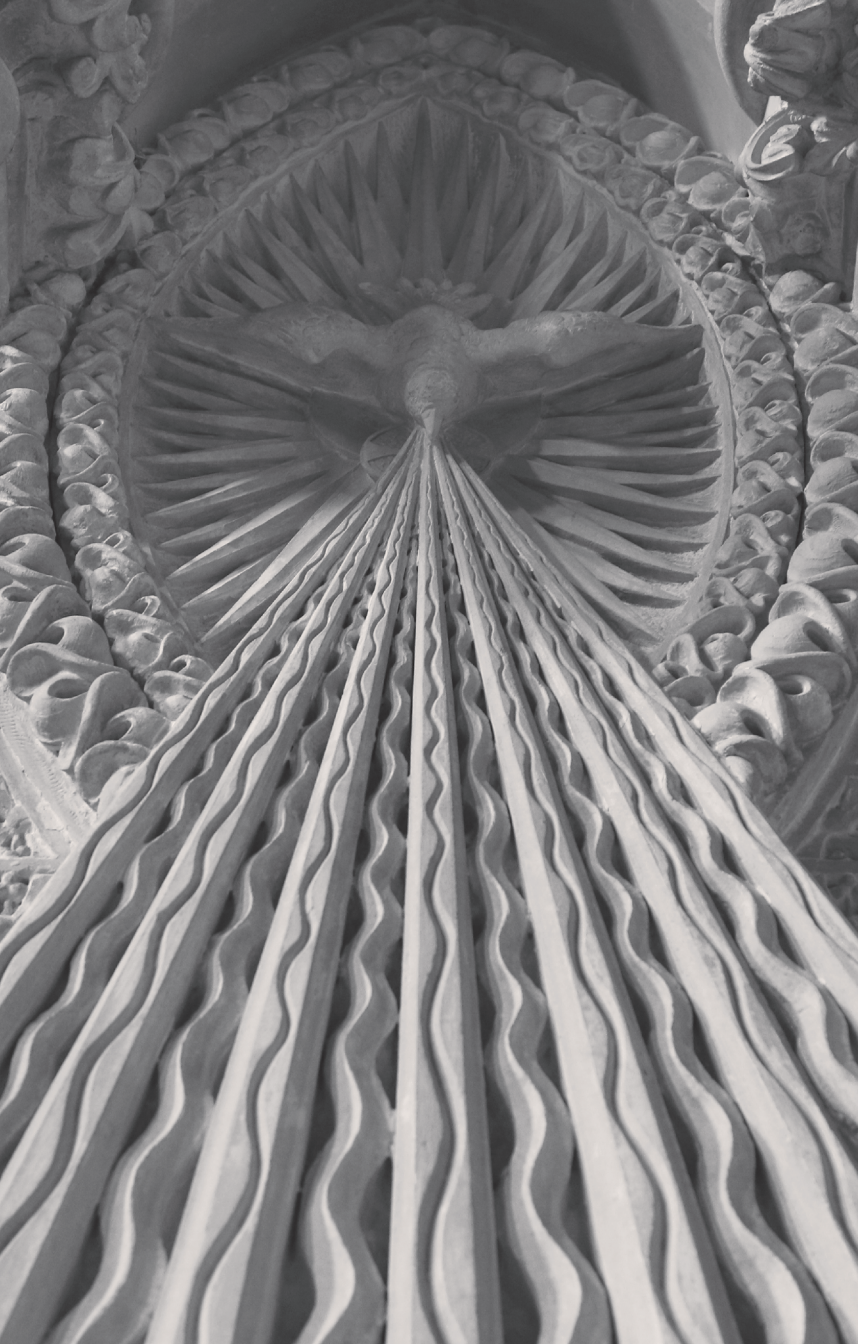
Animate youth ministers and youth programs with your Spirit. **R7.**

Show your love and grace upon parents and guardians of young children. **R7.**

Grant eternal life to all who have gone before us in faith. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God heal us of every ill and fill our hearts with peace, through Jesus our brother. Amen.



Sunday, May 31

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 150

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

Alleluia!

Praise God in the holy temple;
praise the Lord in the mighty firmament.
Praise God for powerful deeds;
for boundless grandeur, praise God.

O praise the Lord with sound of trumpet;
give praise with lute and harp.
Praise God with timbrel and dance;
give praise with strings and pipes.

O praise God with resounding cymbals;
give praise with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Joel 3:1-3, 5

It shall come to pass / I will pour out my spirit upon all
flesh. / Your sons and daughters will prophesy, / your old
men will dream dreams, / your young men will see visions.
/ Even upon your male and female servants, / in those days,
I will pour out my spirit. / I will set signs in the heavens and

on the earth, / blood, fire, and columns of smoke. / Then everyone who calls upon the name of the LORD / will escape harm. / For on Mount Zion there will be a remnant, / as the LORD has said, / And in Jerusalem survivors / whom the LORD will summon.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of the cosmos, you pour your love into our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit. In hope we pray: **R7.** Spirit of God, breathe new life into the world.

Animate your Church to embrace the gifts of all the baptized. **R7.**

Unite all people in peace and in care for creation. **R7.**

Strengthen the faith of all believers, and inspire us to proclaim your life-giving word to people of every language, race, and creed. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with every gift of the Spirit and fill us with joy all our days. Amen.

Mass

Pentecost Sunday, Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Wisdom 1:7

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world / and
that which contains all things / understands what is said,
alleluia.

Or:

Romans 5:5; cf. 8:11

The love of God has been poured into our hearts /
through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

GLORIA (p. 329)

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit
across the face of the earth
and, with the divine grace that was at work
when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts of believers.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were
all in one place together. And suddenly there came
from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled
the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared
to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest
on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy

Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

R₁. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. *or:* **R₁.** Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are your works, O LORD!

The earth is full of your creatures. **R₁.**

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth. **R₁.**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!

Pleasing to him be my theme;

I will be glad in the LORD. **R₁.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians

12:3b-7, 12-13

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

And from your celestial home

Shed a ray of light divine!

Come, Father of the poor!

Come, source of all our store!

Come, within our bosoms shine.

You, of comforters the best;

You, the soul's most welcome guest;

Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labor, rest most sweet;

Grateful coolness in the heat;

Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine,

Shine within these hearts of yours,

And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to

them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 330)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, as promised by your Son,
the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly
the hidden mystery of this sacrifice
and graciously lead us into all truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Acts 2:4, 11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit / and spoke of the
marvels of God, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church,
safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given,
that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her
may retain all its force
and that this spiritual food
may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

New Life, New Spirit

One of the reasons we're sometimes deeply restless and frustrated is that our life is often out of sync with its proper spirit. We haven't let Pentecost happen.

Pentecost is part of a cycle of life that has five moments: *Good Friday*, *Easter*, *The Forty Days*, *Ascension*, and *Pentecost*. We understand Pentecost only when it's seen as the culmination of the other four moments. It works like this: On *Good Friday*, life is lost; on *Easter*, new life is received; during the *Forty Days*, the disciples adjust to a new presence of Jesus; at the *Ascension*, the disciples let go of the Jesus they once had; and at *Pentecost*, they receive a new spirit for the life they're now living.

And that's the cycle too within our own lives. We need, constantly, to *accept our deaths, receive the new life that's then given us, grieve our losses, let go of the old, and then receive the spirit for the actual life we're living.*

Pentecost is an ongoing, lifelong mystery. We suffer many losses—loss of youth, loss of health, loss of loved ones, loss of wholeness, and the loss of countless things that are precious to us. Yet, we're never dead! We're always given new life. But if we are trying to live that new life with our former spirit, we will find ourselves deeply out of sorts. We need Pentecost, daily, in our lives. It harmonizes our life with its proper spirit.

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

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Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 356–61)

PSALM 123

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens.

Behold, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords,
like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the LORD our God,
till mercy be shown us.

Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed, all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the arrogant,
the disdain of the proud.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:22-25

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 362)

ANTIPHON

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Merciful God, you animate all life by your Spirit. In joy we pray: **R**. Be with us, O Spirit of God.

Enkindle in us the fire of your love as we strive to live in charity with all people. **R**.

Lead graduates and all who seek work to find meaningful employment. **R**.

Make us mindful and wise in our choices and decisions. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God grant us a desire and love for what is right and just, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus our brother. Amen.

The Order of Mass

- In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

GREETING

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And with your spirit.

B Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And with your spirit.

C The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
(Pause)

A I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

B Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

These or other invocations may be used.

C You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.
You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Or:** Christe, eleison.
Christ, have mercy. **Or:** Christe, eleison.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to
intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.

■ May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

■ Amen.

KYRIE

The Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy) invocations follow, unless they have just occurred in a formula of the Penitential Act.

■ Lord, have mercy.	■ Kyrie, eleison.
■ Lord, have mercy.	■ Kyrie, eleison.
■ Christ, have mercy.	■ Christe, eleison.
■ Christ, have mercy.	■ Christe, eleison.
■ Lord, have mercy.	■ Kyrie, eleison.
■ Lord, have mercy.	■ Kyrie, eleison.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God,
that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.

■ The Lord be with you.

■ And with your spirit.

■ A reading from the holy Gospel according to **N**.

■ Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

■ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the words of the Gospel
may our sins be wiped away.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

[The Apostles' Creed can be found on p. 354]

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man,
all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (BIDDING PRAYERS)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

By the mystery of this water and wine
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

With humble spirit and contrite heart
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- The Lord be with you. ■ And with your spirit.
- Lift up your hearts. ■ We lift them up to the Lord.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right and just.

PREFACE II OF EASTER

New life in Christ

(The following Preface is said during Easter Time.)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

Through him the children of light rise to eternal life
and the halls of the heavenly Kingdom
are thrown open to the faithful;
for his Death is our ransom from death,
and in his rising the life of all has risen.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE II OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The mystery of the Ascension

(The following Preface is said on the day of the Ascension of the Lord. It may be said on the days between the Ascension and Pentecost in all Masses that have no proper Preface.)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For after his Resurrection
he plainly appeared to all his disciples
and was taken up to heaven in their sight,
that he might make us sharers in his divinity.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE OF PENTECOST

The mystery of Pentecost

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion,
you bestowed the Holy Spirit today
on those you made your adopted children
by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son.
This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth,
opened to all peoples the knowledge of God
and brought together the many languages of the earth
in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim:

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sábaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua.**

Hosánna in excélsis.

Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini.

Hosánna in excélsis.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I (Roman Canon)

To you, therefore, most merciful Father,
we make humble prayer and petition
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:
that you accept

and bless † these gifts, these offerings,
these holy and unblemished sacrifices,
which we offer you firstly
for your holy catholic Church.

Be pleased to grant her peace,
to guard, unite and govern her
throughout the whole world,
together with your servant **N.** our Pope
and **N.** our Bishop,
and all those who, holding to the truth,
hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**
and all gathered here,
whose faith and devotion are known to you.
For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise
or they offer it for themselves
and all who are dear to them:
for the redemption of their souls,
in hope of health and well-being,
and paying their homage to you,
the eternal God, living and true.

In communion with those whose memory we venerate,
especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary,
Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ,
† and blessed Joseph, her Spouse,

your blessed Apostles and Martyrs,
Peter and Paul, Andrew,

(James, John,
Thomas, James, Philip,
Bartholomew, Matthew,
Simon and Jude;
Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus,
Cornelius, Cyprian,
Lawrence, Chrysogonus,
John and Paul,
Cosmas and Damian)

and all your Saints;

we ask that through their merits and prayers,
in all things we may be defended
by your protecting help.

(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Therefore, Lord, we pray:

graciously accept this oblation of our service,
that of your whole family;

order our days in your peace,

and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation
and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Be pleased, O God, we pray,

to bless, acknowledge,

and approve this offering in every respect;

make it spiritual and acceptable,

so that it may become for us

the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer,

he took bread in his holy and venerable hands,

and with eyes raised to heaven

to you, O God, his almighty Father,
giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took this precious chalice
in his holy and venerable hands,
and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord,
as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion,

the Resurrection from the dead,
and the glorious Ascension into heaven
of Christ, your Son, our Lord,
we, your servants and your holy people,
offer to your glorious majesty
from the gifts that you have given us,
this pure victim,
this holy victim,
this spotless victim,
the holy Bread of eternal life
and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings
with a serene and kindly countenance,
and to accept them,
as once you were pleased to accept
the gifts of your servant Abel the just,
the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith,
and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek,
a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God:
command that these gifts be borne
by the hands of your holy Angel
to your altar on high
in the sight of your divine majesty,
so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar
receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son,
may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Remember also, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**,
who have gone before us with the sign of faith
and rest in the sleep of peace.

Grant them, O Lord, we pray,
and all who sleep in Christ,
a place of refreshment, light and peace.

(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners,
hope in your abundant mercies,
graciously grant some share
and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs:
with John the Baptist, Stephen,

Matthias, Barnabas,

(Ignatius, Alexander,

Marcellinus, Peter,

Felicity, Perpetua,

Agatha, Lucy,

Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia)

and all your Saints;

admit us, we beseech you,

into their company,

not weighing our merits,

but granting us your pardon,

through Christ our Lord.

Through whom

you continue to make all these good things, O Lord;

you sanctify them, fill them with life,

bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him,

O God, almighty Father,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, p. 350.

Eucharistic Prayer II

Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
your Word through whom you made all things,
whom you sent as our Savior and Redeemer,
incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people,
he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion,
so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints
we declare your glory,
as with one voice we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, p. 350.

Eucharistic Prayer III

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,

that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
(with Saint N.: the Saint of the day or Patron Saint)
and with all the Saints,
on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity
your pilgrim Church on earth,
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
whom you have summoned before you:
in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.

† To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory
through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. †
Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, p. 350.

Eucharistic Prayer IV

Preface

It is truly right to give you thanks,
truly just to give you glory, Father most holy,
for you are the one God living and true,
existing before all ages and abiding for all eternity,
dwelling in unapproachable light;
yet you, who alone are good, the source of life,
have made all that is,
so that you might fill your creatures with blessings
and bring joy to many of them by the glory of your light.

And so, in your presence are countless hosts of Angels,
who serve you day and night
and, gazing upon the glory of your face,
glorify you without ceasing.

With them we, too, confess your name in exultation,
giving voice to every creature under heaven,
as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

We give you praise, Father most holy,
for you are great
and you have fashioned all your works
in wisdom and in love.

You formed man in your own image
and entrusted the whole world to his care,
so that in serving you alone, the Creator,
he might have dominion over all creatures.

And when through disobedience he had lost your friendship,
you did not abandon him to the domain of death.

For you came in mercy to the aid of all,
so that those who seek might find you.
Time and again you offered them covenants
and through the prophets
taught them to look forward to salvation.

And you so loved the world, Father most holy,
that in the fullness of time
you sent your Only Begotten Son to be our Savior.

Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary,
he shared our human nature
in all things but sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation,
to prisoners, freedom,
and to the sorrowful of heart, joy.

To accomplish your plan,
he gave himself up to death,
and, rising from the dead,
he destroyed death and restored life.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves
but for him who died and rose again for us,
he sent the Holy Spirit from you, Father,
as the first fruits for those who believe,
so that, bringing to perfection his work in the world,
he might sanctify creation to the full.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray:
may this same Holy Spirit
graciously sanctify these offerings,
that they may become
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
for the celebration of this great mystery,
which he himself left us
as an eternal covenant.

For when the hour had come
for him to be glorified by you, Father most holy,
having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end:
and while they were at supper,
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way,
taking the chalice filled with the fruit of the vine,
he gave thanks,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord,
as we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption,
we remember Christ's Death
and his descent to the realm of the dead,
we proclaim his Resurrection
and his Ascension to your right hand,
and, as we await his coming in glory,
we offer you his Body and Blood,
the sacrifice acceptable to you
which brings salvation to the whole world.

Look, O Lord, upon the Sacrifice
which you yourself have provided for your Church,
and grant in your loving kindness
to all who partake of this one Bread and one Chalice
that, gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit,

they may truly become a living sacrifice in Christ
to the praise of your glory.

Therefore, Lord, remember now
all for whom we offer this sacrifice:
especially your servant **N.** our Pope,
N. our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops,
all the clergy,
those who take part in this offering,
those gathered here before you,
your entire people,
and all who seek you with a sincere heart.

Remember also
those who have died in the peace of your Christ
and all the dead,
whose faith you alone have known.

To all of us, your children,
grant, O merciful Father,
that we may enter into a heavenly inheritance
with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
and with your Apostles and Saints in your kingdom.
There, with the whole of creation,
freed from the corruption of sin and death,
may we glorify you through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

SIGN OF PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

May this mingling of the Body and Blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who, by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your Death gave life to the world,
free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,
from all my sins and from every evil;
keep me always faithful to your commandments,
and never let me be parted from you.

Or:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

If there is no singing, the communion antiphon is recited.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

FINAL BLESSING

■ The Lord be with you.

■ **And with your spirit.**

■ May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

■ **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A Go forth, the Mass is ended.

B Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

C Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

D Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word

[With Holy Communion]

INTRODUCTORY RITES

INTRODUCTION

Deacon or lay leader:

We gather here to celebrate the Lord's Day.
Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because
it was on this day
that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life.
Unfortunately, we are not able to celebrate the Mass today
because we do not have a priest.
Let us be united in the spirit of Christ with
the Church around the world
and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering,
death, and resurrection.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Deacon or lay leader:

- In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

GREETING

Deacon or lay leader:

- Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.
- Blessed be God for ever.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

HOMILY OR REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

PERIOD OF SILENCE

PROFESSION OF FAITH

[The Nicene Creed can be found on p. 330]

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary,
all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon or lay leader:

The Father provides us with food for eternal life.
At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Deacon or lay leader:

**Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

CONCLUDING RITE

INVITATION TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Deacon or lay leader:

Mindful of our Lord's word, "Ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest," let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. May our prayer hasten the day when we will be able to take part in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.

BLESSING

SIGN OF PEACE

Love's Redeeming Work Is Done

Easter—AM/PM



1. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King;
3. Soar we now where Christ has led,



fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
 where, O death, is now your sting?
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed head;



Death in vain for - bids him rise;
 Once he died our souls to save,
 made like him, like him we rise,



Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, 77 77.

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

Easter—AM/PM

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;
 what joy the blest assurance gives!
 He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my everlasting Head!
2. He lives, to bless me with his love;
 He lives, to plead for me above;
 He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
 He lives, to help in time of need.

3. He lives, and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives, my mansion to prepare;
 He lives, to bring me safely there.

4. He lives, all glory to his name;
 He lives, my Savior still the same;
 what joy the blest assurance gives;
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799.
 Music: DUKE STREET, 88 88; John Hatton, c. 1710-1793.

The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

Easter—AM/PM

Familiar Tune: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

1. The head that once was crowned with
 2. The high - est place that heav'n af -
 3. The joy of all who dwell a -

thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
 fords be - longs to him by right;
 bove, the joy of all be - low,

a roy - al di - a - dem a -
 the King of kings, and Lord of
 to whom he man - i - fests his

dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
 lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
 love, and grants his name to know.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855.
 Music: MORNING SONG, 86 86, *Kentucky Harmony*.

Awake, Arise, Lift Up Your Voice

Easter—AM/PM

Familiar Tune: In Christ There Is No East or West



1. A - wake, a - rise, lift up your voice,
2. Oh, with what glad - ness and sur - prise
3. Those hands of lib - eral love in - deed



let Eas - ter mu - sic swell;
 the saints their Sav - ior greet;
 in in - fi - nite de - gree,



re - jice in Christ, a - gain re - jice
 nor will they trust their ears and eyes
 those feet still free to move and bleed



and on his prais - es dwell.
 but by his hands and feet.
 for mil - lions and for me.

Text: Christopher Smart, 1722-1771, alt.

Music: MCKEE, 86 86, African-American spiritual.

The Lord Goes Up With Shouts of Joy

Ascension—AM/PM

Familiar Tune: That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1. The Lord goes up with shouts of joy,
2. He sits with God, at his right hand,
3. And when he comes a - gain in might



while trum - pets all his tri - umph tell;
 who is the Lord of ev - 'ry - thing:
 to raise us on that splen - did day,



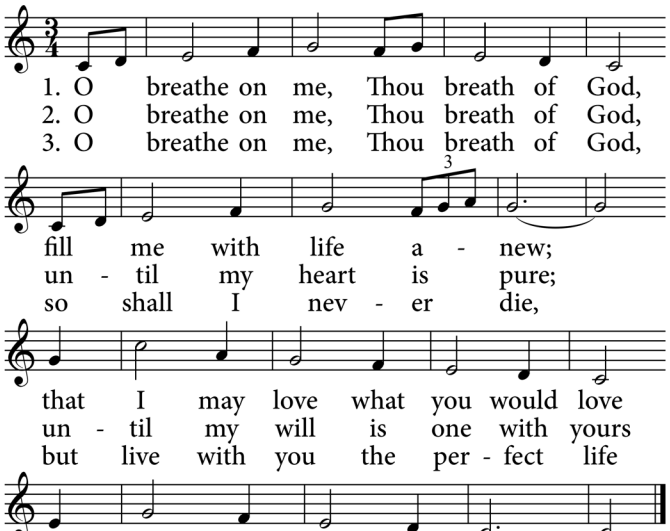
with him hu - man - i - ty is raised
 the Fa - ther's glo - ry is his own;
 we shall be gath - ered up to him,
 a - bove an - gel - ic worlds to dwell.
 Christ Je - sus, all cre - a - tion's king,
 and ev - 'ry tear be wiped a - way.

Text: Stanbrook Abbey, © 1974, 1995. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Music: PUER NOBIS, 88 88; Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

O Breathe on Me, Thou Breath of God

Pentecost—AM/PM



1. O breathe on me, Thou breath of God,
 2. O breathe on me, Thou breath of God,
 3. O breathe on me, Thou breath of God,
 fill me with life a - new;
 un - til my heart is pure;
 so shall I nev - er die,
 that I may love what you would love
 un - til my will is one with yours
 but live with you the per - fect life
 and do what you would do.
 to do and to en - dure.
 of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889, alt.

Music: ST. COLUMBA, 87 87, traditional Irish hymn melody.

O Heart of Mary, Pure and Fair

Marian—AM/PM

Familiar Tune: O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. O heart of Mar - y, pure and fair, and
2. As some fair lil - y grown in thorns, your
3. The Heart of Christ, by God's de - cree, was
4. God's words with - in your pur - est heart be -



free from sin's do - main, in A - dam's fall
heart so full of grace with spot - less pur -
formed be - neath your heart; we long to love
come a song of praise. May all the grace



you had no share, in you there is no stain.
i - ty a - dorns our sin - ful fal - len race.
you just as He, — in your love give us part.
which they im - part give joy to all our days.

Text: Vv. 1–3, anon., alt., *The New Saint Basil Hymnal*.V. 4, Michael Kwatera, OSB, b. 1950, © 2012, Order of Saint Benedict,
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Music: ST. ANNE, 86 86, William Croft, 1678–1727, alt.

Immaculate Mary

Marian—AM/PM



1. Im - mac - u - late Mar - y, your prais - es
2. In heav - en the bless - ed your glo - ry
3. We pray for the Church, our true moth - er



we sing. You reign now in splen - dor with
pro - claim, on earth we your chil - dren in -
on earth, and beg you to watch o'er the

Je - sus our King. A - ve, A - ve, A - ve,
 voke your sweet name.
 land of our birth.

Ma - ri - a! A - ve, A - ve, Ma - ri - a!

Text: Irvin Udulutsch, OFM., Cap., b. 1920, © 1959, 1977, Order of Saint Benedict, administered by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 56321. All rights reserved.
 Music: LOURDES (MASSABIELLE), 65 65 with refrain; *Grenoble*, 1882.

On This Day, O Beautiful Mother

Marian—AM/PM

On this day, O beau-ti-ful Moth-er, on this
 day we give thee our love. Near thee, Ma-don-na,
 fond-ly we hov-er, trust-ing thy gen-tle care to prove.

1. On this day we ask to share, dear-est Moth-
 2. Queen of an-gels, deign to hear thy dear chil-
 er, thy sweet care; aid us ere our
 dren's hum-ble prayer; young hearts gain, O
 feet a-stray wan-der from thy guid-ing way.
 Vir-gin pure, Je-sus' love for them as-sure.

Text: Anon. Music: BEAUTIFUL MOTHER, 77 77 with refrain, Louis Lambillotte, 1796–1855.

Guide to *Lectio Divina*

Choose a word or phrase of the Scriptures you wish to pray. It makes no difference which text is chosen, as long as you have no set goal of “covering” a certain amount of text. The amount of text covered is in God’s hands, not yours.

Read. Turn to the text and read it slowly, gently. Savor each portion of the reading, constantly listening for the “still, small voice” of a word or phrase that somehow says, “I am for you today.” Do not expect lightning or ecstasies. In *lectio divina*, God is teaching us to listen, to seek him in silence. God does not reach out and grab us but gently invites us ever more deeply into his presence.

Ponder. Take the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize it and slowly repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, and ideas. Do not be afraid of distractions. Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself that, when they rise up during *lectio divina*, are asking to be given to God along with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.

Pray. Whether you use words, ideas, or images—or all three—is not important. Interact with God as you would with one who you know loves and accepts you. Give to God what you have discovered during your experience of meditation. Give to God what you have found within your heart.

It is not necessary to assess the quality of your *lectio divina*, as if you were “performing” or seeking some goal. *Lectio divina* has no goal other than that of being in the presence of God by praying the Scriptures.

—Fr. Luke Dysinger

Luke Dysinger, OSB, is a Benedictine monk of Saint Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo, California.

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About the Cover

The earliest iconographic depictions of Christ's ascension appeared around AD 400. Many of these images show Christ pulled up by God, who reaches down out of the heavens (see the relief icon on p. 212). By the sixth century, however, most images showed Christ seated in the heavens, usually supported by angels, with the Blessed Virgin and the apostles below. Such is our cover image, a Byzantine-style icon by the hand of Sr. Marie-Paul Farran, OSB (d. 2019).

In this traditional composition, Christ's throne is a halo or rainbow, as described in Revelation 4:2-3. His arms are extended to embrace all of creation. He has been taken up from the Mount of Olives, seen here in the background, where he had bid farewell to his disciples. At the center of the group on the ground is Christ's mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. She stands perfectly calm, her hands extended in prayer. She has, throughout her life, pondered the mysteries of her Son's birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. Now she ponders his ascension and already awaits his glorious return. Notice the halo that surrounds her head, as well as those of the other divine/heavenly figures, Christ and the angels. But there is no divine glow upon the disciples as they stand alarmed, disordered, and confused.

Together, the Virgin and the apostles represent the Church. Even St. Paul, who was not yet a believer at the time of the ascension, is part of the scene. We can imagine ourselves, too, on the Mount of Olives, wondering what comes next. The white-robed ones are there to remind us that he will return someday, just as he left. Until then, of course, his Holy Spirit guides and protects us as we wait.

—Br. Ælred Senna

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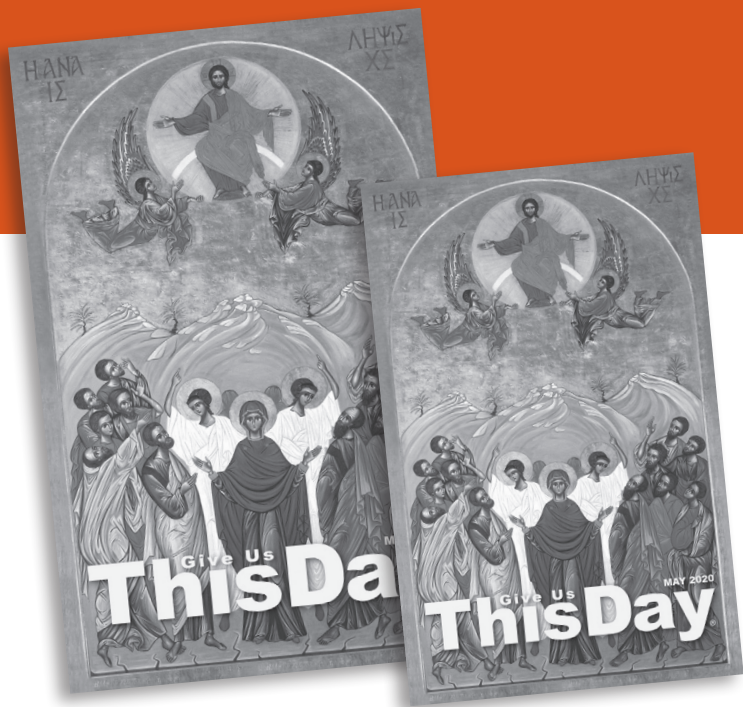
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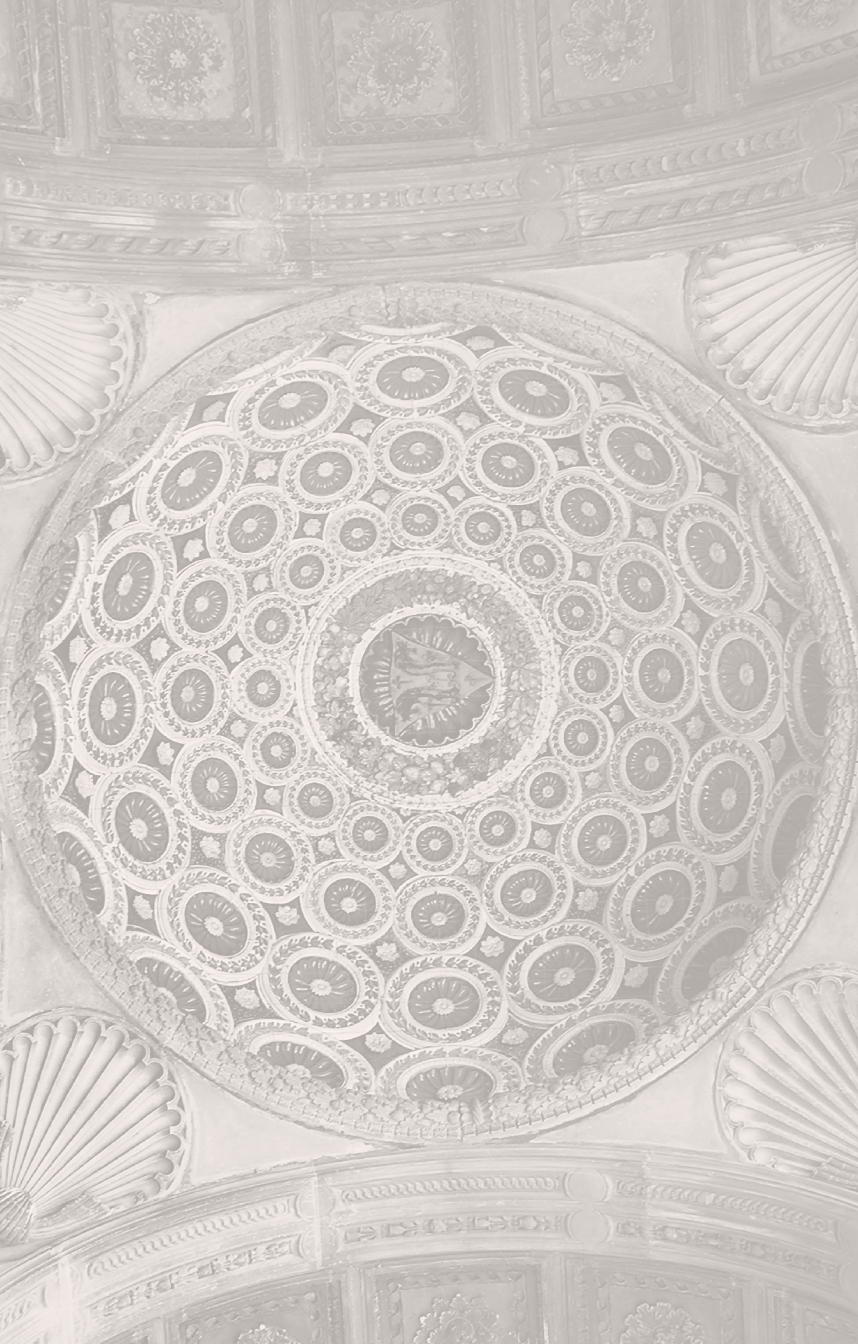


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Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.



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Back cover: *Filled* (detail), quilt by Lisa Ellis

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