



Bringing Home the Word

Ascension of the Lord (C)

May 29, 2022

Jesus Awaits Us

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In the Apostles' Creed we pray, "He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father." Jesus lived forty days in his glorified body after the resurrection, but at the end he rose into heaven where he awaits each of us. It was planned all along that he who came down from heaven would return there. "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man" (John 3:13).

The amazing truth is that he has opened heaven for us, cheering on each of us to join him forever! "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" (John 14:3). So we're not only striving to get to heaven, but Jesus is there interceding with his power for an ongoing outpouring of his Holy Spirit upon each of us (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 667).

Imagine Jesus as your intercessor in heaven, pleading your case as a brother before our loving Father! If God is for us, who can be against us?

He is also there inaugurating his messianic kingdom. He told Pilate that his kingdom wasn't of this world. He has now taken the throne of his kingdom and will draw all peoples to himself. You and I will become witnesses to this kingdom with no end.

So, let's live with newfound confidence. Jesus is in heaven today interceding for us, inaugurating his kingdom, and preparing our eternal home. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 1:1-11

"[Y]ou will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth."

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.

Luke 24:46-53

As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

The amazing truth is that Jesus has opened heaven for us, cheering on each of us to join him forever!

A Word From Pope Francis

[Jesus] is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Savior, our Advocate.

General Audience, April 17, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I live like a person who is aware that I'm on my way to heaven?
- How can I live this week with a more heavenly perspective?

Threads of Time

By Joanne Bennardo

I never imagined that stitches on a canvas could lead to prayer, but that's exactly what happened when I found a long-forgotten sewing project I had packed up in 1987 as our family prepared to move. Finding the project tucked away in a drawer evokes many memories of Ed and me and our three little boys.



I carefully take out this piece of my past. My arthritic fingers ply the labeled green yarns that had been gathered by younger, more flexible digits. I survey the canvas and find that only four colors of the total twenty-four had been worked: black, white, brown, and the first shade of green. This resonates. My younger self thought in black and white, right and wrong. Unlike today, back then there wasn't much time given to life's gray areas.

I study the diagram and the stitch directory and separate the huge bulk of unused threads. Slowly I guide the material between the two round stretchers. My needle resumes its rhythmic in and out, up and through.

This piece is creating an extraordinary bridge between my younger and present selves. Memories cascade through my very being with each stitch. I smile as I recall leaving Kevin's stuffed panda bear under the blankets in a hotel bed during

the move. The hotel staff mailed us the wayward bear, and our youngest was full of glee when he opened the soft package. I can still picture the bulky lettering of the thank you note he sent to the thoughtful staff.

I outline three white buds with a dark lime green. The green of today is anchored by the white of yesterday. I wonder what else I did on the day I filled in the white buds. I picture the room where I sewed after boys and teddy bears had all been tucked into bed. I feel the old comfy couch where I cuddled my babies and played peek-a-boo. I hear the constant commotion of laughter and antics meshed with endless tasks. Back then, I could only imagine the day the canvas would boast a completed vase of colorful flowers.

I sew and remember, remember and sew, and God's grace helps me realize that my project may have been interrupted, but God's creativity never missed a stitch. The years I spent as a young mother are an integral part of my life canvas. The finished crewel holds the blessings of loosely held French knots as well as tight ones. Each is necessary and part of the whole picture. Weaved together, the varied threads of my

relationships and experiences have created a tapestry of light, shape, density, and form.

Throughout it all, God has been present in my ordinary and extraordinary days. He is present in the mundane and in crisis, ever-present in the packing and unpacking, sewing and unraveling of our lives.

The rhythm of my current season includes a daily walk. I savor the smell of the grass and the sound of birdsong. I meet young parents for whom I breathe a slow prayer. Some push strollers, others tug at muddy tricycles, and one beams as she receives an imaginary "vamella" ice-cream cone from a small, clenched fist. The past and present entwine, interconnect, and transform.

God gave me the ability to see the significance of old yarns. The pastel pink strands mingle with the deep purple in the same way lightheartedness and toil then and now caress and expand the contours of my life. I pray, "Thank you, creator God. I knocked, and you answered." +

PRAYER

Risen Lord, your resurrection and ascension give witness to God's power. May my life bear witness to God's love, compassion, forgiveness, and peace.

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 30 – June 4

Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 19:1–8 / Jn 16:29–33

Tuesday, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Zep 3:14–18a or Rom 12:9–16 / Lk 1:39–56

Wednesday, St. Justin:

Acts 20:28–38 / Jn 17:11b–19

Thursday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 22:30; 23:6–11 / Jn 17:20–26

Friday, St. Charles Lwanga and Companions:

Acts 25:13b–21 / Jn 21:15–19

Saturday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 28:16–20, 30–31 / Jn 21:20–25

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

May 29, 2022

© 2022 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2022 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.