



GOD MOUNTS HIS
THRONE
TO SHOUTS OF *Joy;*

A BLARE OF TRUMPETS FOR
THE LORD.

PSALM 47

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MAY 24, 2020

Weekly Scripture

Sunday, May 24

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Eph 1:17-23
Mt 28:16-20

Monday, May 25

*Easter Weekday
Memorial Day*

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

Tuesday, May 26

Feast of St. Philip Neri, Priest

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

Wednesday, May 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 29

Easter Weekday

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

Saturday, May 30

Easter Weekday

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

Access *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*
(NABRE) online at
<http://cms.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm>

Jesus Took His Place

Gospel Reflection by Pope John Paul II on the Ascension of Our Lord

With joy then and fresh resolves for the future, let us reflect briefly on the great mystery of today's liturgy. In the Scripture readings the whole significance of Christ's Ascension is summarized for us. The richness of this mystery is spelled out in two statements: Jesus gave instructions, and then Jesus took his place.

In the providence of God – in the eternal design of the Father – the hour had come for Christ to go away. He would leave his Apostles behind, with his Mother Mary, but only after he had given them his instructions. The Apostles now had a mission to perform according to the instructions that Jesus left, and these instructions were in turn the faithful expression of the Father's will.

The instructions indicated, above all, that the Apostles were to wait for the Holy Spirit, who was the gift of the Father. From the beginning, it had to be crystal-clear that the source of the Apostles' strength is the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who guides the Church in the way of truth; the Gospel is to spread through the power of God, and not by means of human wisdom or strength.

The Apostles, moreover, were instructed to teach – to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. And they were to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, they were to speak explicitly about the Kingdom of God and about salvation. The Apostles were to give witness to Christ to the ends of the earth. The early Church clearly understood these instructions and the missionary era began. And everybody knew that this missionary era could never end until the same Jesus, who went up to heaven, would come back again.

The words of Jesus became a treasure for the Church to guard and to proclaim, to meditate on and to live. And at the same time, the Holy Spirit implanted in the Church an apostolic charism, in order to keep this revelation intact. Through his words Jesus was to live on in his Church: I am with you always. And so the whole ecclesial community became conscious of the need for fidelity to the instructions of Jesus, to the deposit of faith. This solicitude was to pass from generation to generation – down to our own day.

And the second reflection on the meaning of the Ascension is found in this phrase: Jesus took his place. After having undergone the humiliation of his passion and death, Jesus took his place at the right-hand of God; he took his place with his eternal Father. But he also entered heaven as our Head. Whereupon, in the expression of Leo the Great, the glory of the Head became the hope of the body. For all eternity Christ takes his place as the firstborn among many brethren: our nature is with God in Christ. And as man, the Lord Jesus lives for ever to intercede for us with Father. At the same time, from his throne of glory, Jesus sends out to the whole Church a message of hope and a call to holiness.

Excerpted from Homily of His Holiness John Paul II, Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord, 24 May 1979
http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/1979/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_19790524_seminari-ingl-roma.html

AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE.

MT 28:20

St. Philip Neri

The Patron Saint of Joy & Humor

St. Philip Neri was a Christian missionary and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory, a community of Catholic priests and lay brothers. From a very young age, Philip was known for being cheerful and obedient. A mystical vision at the age of 18 led to his Christian conversion, and this encounter with the Lord dramatically changed his life and led him to serve Jesus Christ and His Church. Philip was an evangelist. He had a knack for starting up conversations and leading his listeners to consider a new and better way of life, the Christian Way. He easily caught others' attention with his warm personality and incredible sense of humor. He encouraged groups of people to gather for discussions, studies, prayer and the enjoyment of music. His customary question was always, "Well, brothers, when shall we begin to do good?" [He lost] no time in converting good conversation to good actions, [and] would lead his followers to hospitals to wait on the sick or to the Church, to pray to and encounter Jesus Christ. In the words of one of his biographers, Philip was "all things to all men.... When he was called upon to be merry, he was so; if there was a demand upon his sympathy, he was equally ready..." Philip was respected and loved throughout Rome; he became a trusted advisor to popes, kings, cardinals and equally as important to the poor. He whole-heartedly desired the reform of the Catholic Church and worked toward that with a sense of gentleness and friendship, rather than criticism and harshness.

If your soul feels weighed down by the anxieties of the world, or if you desire to see the joy of the Gospel in a new way, pray to St. Philip Neri.

O holy St. Philip Neri, patron saint of joy, you who trusted Scripture's promise that the Lord is always at hand and that we need not have anxiety about anything, in your compassion heal our worries and sorrows and lift the burdens from our hearts.

We come to you as one whose heart swells with abundant love for God and all creation. Hear us, we pray, especially in this need (make your request here).

Keep us safe through your loving intercession, and may the joy of the Holy Spirit which filled your heart, St. Philip, transform our lives and bring us peace. Amen.

Abridged from *St. Philip Neri*. Catholic Online: Saints and Angels, Your Catholic Voice Foundation, www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=97. Prayer from Kosloski, Philip. *Want to Be More Joyful?* *Pray This Prayer to St. Philip Neri*. Aletheia, Foundation of Evangelization through the Media (FEM), 3 Apr. 2018, <https://aletheia.org/2018/04/03/want-to-be-more-joyful-pray-this-prayer-to-st-philip-neri/>



Photo by Mi Pham on Unsplash



Prayer for Memorial Day

God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and
put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst
and wipe away our tears,
that we may all deserve to be called
your sons and daughters.
Keep in your mercy
those men and women
who have died
in the cause of freedom
and bring them safely
into your kingdom
of justice and peace.
We ask this though
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer for Memorial Day from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/memorial-day-prayer.cfm.

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