

Sunday, Jun 01, 2025

God is closer than we think

The term *ascension* is susceptible to unintended comic imagery of Jesus waving good-bye from a balloon gondola or being lifted on a wire. Another unfortunate connotation is that heaven is somehow “up,” while we are left down here. Perhaps such imagery does help us to imagine that in the resurrected Lord, God (heaven) and we (on Earth) are united. Having become incarnate in Jesus, God is never only watching from some great distance. “I am *with* you until the end” are the simplest words, but the most profound. There is no need to stand looking at the sky with our jaws hanging open. For Christ is here, as close as our own breath, keeping us alive to carry his presence into our world.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Luke 24:46-53 (58). *“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.”*

Monday, Jun 02, 2025

Faith takes courage

The disciples confidently assured Jesus they believed in him, suggesting an unshakeable faith. Jesus knew better; he knew they would flee at the first sign of the trouble that was coming his way. When we are most sure of ourselves, we most need to be careful. Jesus knows we can talk a good game when it comes to faith. But can we do the work—especially when it leads us to risk or hardship? Can we embrace the cross as all our suffering and martyred saints have done? The Easter season is a good time to bring to mind both our own limitations and God’s limitless power to help our unbelief. Pray for an extra dose of humility mixed with a little courage.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). *“You will be scattered . . . and you will leave me alone.”*

Tuesday, Jun 03, 2025

In weakness, strength

“The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians,” wrote Early Church Father Tertullian. That truism is borne out in the history of the church in Africa. Speaking of Saint Charles Lwanga and the martyrs of Uganda in his “Word on Fire” video series, Bishop Robert Barron wonders if those first Christians of 19th-century Uganda could have imagined that one day Africa would have nearly 400 million Christians and that Uganda itself would have the largest percentage of professed Christians of any nation in Africa. In weakness, strength; in defeat, victory: These are the unexpected lessons of Christianity that spur the growth of new disciples. Give witness to those truths in your own life by not letting your shortcomings and failures have the last word.

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a (298). *“I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me.”*

Wednesday, Jun 04, 2025

Into the fray we are sent

In the Marian prayer *Salve Regina* we call the world “this vale of tears,” an image not so different from Saint Paul’s when he warns us of “savage wolves” who will not spare believers. In John’s gospel, Jesus refers to the world as a place where believers will find the rejection that he experienced. It’s easy to become cynical,

to see threats lurking everywhere from which we desire escape. But Jesus never promised, “Let me take you away from all this.” He promised to be with us so that we could continue the good fight. As a matter of fact, he prays to his Father, “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world”—into the fray, not as victims but as lovers.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). *“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.’”*

Thursday, Jun 05, 2025

How will you stay the course?

What we now call Europe began to take its earliest form nearly 1,500 years ago, and Winfrid of Wessex, an Anglo-Saxon missionary known to us as Saint Boniface, was one of those to help shape it. Bringing Christianity to what today is Germany, he helped form alliances and reform dioceses, laying the groundwork for church-state relations that would shape western Christianity for centuries. “In her voyage across the ocean of this world,” says Boniface, “the Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life’s different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon this ship but to keep her on her course.” Boniface gave his life for this important work. To what will you give yours?

MEMORIAL OF BONIFACE, BISHOP, MARTYR

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). *“I pray . . . for those who will believe in me through their word.”*

Friday, Jun 06, 2025

An offer we shouldn’t refuse

The dictionary defines redemption as the act of saving something or somebody from a declined, dilapidated, or corrupted state and providing restoration. Sounds like the history of Christianity. No matter how far we stray, what sins we commit, or how often we deny God, we are continually offered forgiveness and redemption. Journalist Vance Packard once observed, “The Christian notion of the possibility of redemption is incomprehensible to the computer.” Sometimes it’s incomprehensible to us, as well. Redemption is not logical or predictable, and often we don’t deserve it, yet God never ceases offering it to us. All we have to do is receive it. But do we? Do you accept the redemption that God is offering to you right now?

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301). *“[Jesus] said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’”*

Saturday, Jun 07, 2025

Focus on your own faults

Celebrity gossip is so pervasive that it’s almost hard to avoid. How much do you know about the personal lives of the rich and famous? Sure, these people often invite the public into their lives for profit, but scrutinizing—even relishing—the foibles of strangers is a slippery slope. Jesus frequently reminded his followers to focus on themselves—their own failings and how they could improve—instead of worrying about those around them. Philosopher Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it this way: “Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others, we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled as we are.” How quick are you to judge the actions of others?

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 (302). *“What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



© 2025 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Sign up for free daily email available at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.