

Sunday, May 04, 2025

A change of hands

There comes that time in our lives when our parents or grandparents become too old or sick to care for themselves, and they stretch out their hands to us. It then becomes our task to dress them as they once dressed us and to take them where they don't wish to go as they many times took us where we didn't want to go. It's part of the coming of God's kingdom when the last are first, the first are last, the children become the parents, and the parents become the children. We glorify God by the manner in which we answer the call to serve those who once served us, and to receive the care of those for whom we once cared.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14 (48). *"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."*

Monday, May 05, 2025

Angels in our midst

Children often have that cherubic look—though they can be little devils sometimes! More rarely do we see that transcendent purity and beauty in the face of a grown-up. When we do glimpse it in the blazing appearance of a charismatic preacher, the gentle eyes of a wise elder, or even the loveliness of a stranger, it stirs in us a longing to learn more, to grow closer, perhaps even to follow. We cultivate our own heavenly appearance by keeping our gaze on God's beautiful will. In fact, "the first thing about the angels that we ought to imitate," says Saint John Vianney, "is their consciousness of the Presence of God."

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273). *"All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel."*

Tuesday, May 06, 2025

"On my honor ..."

The Boy Scout Law contains 12 points, the first of which states that a scout is trustworthy. BoyScoutTrail.com describes the quality in this way: "Being 'Worthy of Trust' means a promise made is a promise fulfilled. It means a scout will do what he says he will do. It means the scout will see things through to the end." Not a bad character trait at all, is it? We are blessed to have a trustworthy God. Let's "be prepared" every day to follow suit.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274). *"My trust is in the LORD."*

Wednesday, May 07, 2025

Lighten up

Christians who define their faith in limiting terms—"who's out and who's in," for example—appear to have missed the memo from Christ that all are welcome at his table. Too often throughout history, and today as well, a desire for "religious purity" ends up

hurting a lot of people who don't fit the mold. Avoid exclusionary ideology. Remember the words of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating."

Brighten your day with a little more love.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275). *"I will not reject anyone who comes to me."*

Thursday, May 08, 2025

All you can eat

So what exactly is *manna* from heaven? According to biblical accounts of the Exodus, manna was a sweet-tasting food that came down from heaven as the morning dew evaporated and nourished the Jewish people during their long desert sojourn. Manna provides a powerful symbol of the truth that *God provides*. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the coming of Jesus, who is the living bread—the manna extraordinaire—that has come down from heaven and offers eternal life. Enjoy the never-ending feast!

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276). *"Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert."*

Friday, May 09, 2025

Choose your words carefully

Words have the power to bring life or death. For God, words breathe life into all creation. For Mary, a simple yes results in the Incarnation, the Word made flesh. Yet words can also be destructive. Pontius Pilate's question, "Shall I crucify your king?" and Saul's "murderous threats" of Christians both led to fear, suffering, and death. Examine the words you use regularly. Are they critical and condemning, or encouraging and gracious? The choice is yours.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277). *"He began at once to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues."*

Saturday, May 10, 2025

What to do during difficult times

Thomas Aquinas, the church's great brain, after years of pondering and problem-solving came to this stark conclusion: "All the efforts of the human mind cannot exhaust the essence of a single fly." Of course that hasn't stopped us from trying. But Thomas' hard saying about the limits of knowledge is a good reminder for us when we're seized with doubt and disbelief. So much of what we experience we will never fully understand. Nagging questions will go unanswered, and we'll wonder about the purpose and meaning of our lives. During those times of mental and spiritual anguish, simply choose to love—love yourself, love your enemies, love life, and love God, who is love.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278). *"Many of the disciples of Jesus who were listening said, 'This saying is hard; who can accept it?'"*

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.