

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Witness your own way

Howard Thurman, the theologian, activist, and mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once observed: “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive.” That may sound “selfish”: When you’re discerning the best way to serve, shouldn’t you start with any of the world’s many great needs rather than your own? The world, however, has enough problems to go around. Your response will be most effective when it grows out of what animates you in a deep way. As the Easter Season draws to a close, there can be no better witness to the risen Jesus than to follow *his* way in *your* way.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a (59). *“The words you gave to me I have given to them.”*

Monday, May 18, 2026

The value of courage

Courage is not something only for superheroes or daredevils. All of us have need to call on courage in our normal lives. Having a difficult conversation that needs to happen; doing the right thing by a family member, friend, or coworker; facing a situation that makes us feel vulnerable or awkward. Fortitude is defined as the strength that enables someone to face danger or pain or adversity with courage. It is also a gift of the Holy Spirit. When you need fortitude to deal with a challenging situation, call upon the Spirit of Jesus, whose fortitude enabled him to remain true to his mission even as he faced death on a cross.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). *“In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”*

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

The long road to glory

Under normal circumstances, glory describes success with high honors, such as an athletic or artistic achievement or a brilliant business deal. Glory is even reaped by those who perform heroic acts that earn public esteem. But for Christians glory means something else entirely. The Book of Glory, the name for chapters 13-20 in John’s gospel, tells the story from the Last Supper through Easter Sunday, where Jesus heads for glory in the direction of the cross. On the far side of suffering and death is the ultimate victory. Follow that road so that you may share in God’s eternal glory.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a (298). *“Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you.”*

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Modern missionaries

Austrian-born Dr. Anna Dengel was working in northern India when she realized many women, because of their Muslim customs, were not receiving the care they needed from male physicians. Convinced that a group of women health professionals who dedicated their lives to God could make a difference, Dengel founded the Medical Mission Sisters in 1925. Her vision launched a new approach to missionary work and pioneered new roles for women religious. Mission work is still about bringing the presence

of Christ to the whole world, but more often now the preaching is done through caring practice. Catch the missionary spirit in your own life.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). *“As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

See how they smile

“I am he as you are he as you are me and we are all together.” So goes the opening line of the Beatles hit “I Am the Walrus” and the long-debated question of “Who is the walrus?” and “Is that a good thing or bad?” The verse bears an uncanny resemblance to the Lord’s words in the gospel: “I in them and you in me, that they may be . . .” together! Togetherness is a noble goal; it is the joy of relationships, family, and community. It is the unity of the Holy Spirit poured out at Pentecost. Pray for the love of God that we may be one. And perhaps you’ll discover just who is the walrus.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). *“And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”*

Friday, May 22, 2026

An offer you shouldn’t refuse

The story of Saint Peter is one of the most fascinating in the New Testament. He veered between misunderstanding and understanding and denial and faith, but he always came through in the end. He got second chances and took advantage of them. Having breakfast with the risen Jesus and the other disciples, he had the opportunity to reverse his earlier three denials of knowing Christ when Jesus asked him—three times—if Peter loved him. To each of Peter’s professions of love, Jesus responded with “feed my sheep, tend my lambs”: Jesus the good shepherd was telling Peter to be the same for the community. Despite life’s failures, God always holds out the offer of return. Be like Peter and accept it.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301). *“He said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’”*

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Limited options

We only have one choice as disciples: Follow Jesus. We can whine and rail and question and doubt, but in the end our task remains the same: Follow Jesus. What does it mean to follow Jesus? To be willing to give our lives for the sake of others. It sounds extreme, but most of us do this every day as we care for our families, serve in our communities, and provide dedicated work on the job. Giving of yourself doesn’t require anything in return. Thus, nothing can stop the process. No waiting around for gratitude or favors or comparing who got what. Just follow Jesus.

EASTER WEEKDAY

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

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



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