



The Ascension of the Lord

May 29, 2022

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.

— Psalm 47:6

SENT FORTH

Today we celebrate Jesus' return to heaven. If we struggle to know how to feel about this event, we take our cue from Jesus' disciples. These disciples are first-hand witnesses to the Ascension, returning afterward to Jerusalem, where "they were continually in the temple praising God." Long-time companions of the Lord, they surely feel the pain of physical separation from Jesus. Yet they praise God continually. They accept God's plan, looking forward to the day when Christ will come again. As our reading from Hebrews affirms, Christ will return to "bring salvation to those who eagerly await him." This Good News is almost too much to take in; the Acts of the Apostles explains that an angel has to wake the disciples from their stupor, reminding them to start the Lord's work. Today's readings are our own angel, sending us forth in joyful hope. -- © J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Ascension of the Lord

At the Mass during the Day

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

Why is the Ascension a cause for joy?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk 1:39-56
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
 Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

SAVE THE DATE: Our Parish Picnic returns on Saturday, **August 6, 2022**. Join us for barbecue, games, and a chance to re-connect with friends. Hope to see you there!

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **May/June** offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465.

Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one].

5/22: provided soon. 5/29: Ascension & Rural Food.
 6/05: DIOC PRIEST BEN WELFARE. 6/12: Operating Expenses.



Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA

Finance Council [FC]: TBD

Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Every 3rd Friday. Info TBA.. Contact Dolores, 874-6072

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

5/28 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 5/29 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Joseph Madsen
 5/29 Sun. 9:30am Mass @ *Bodega Cemetery* ✠ Arnold Pieri
 5/29 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People

6/04 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 6/05 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ John LaForge Jr.
 6/05 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
 6/05 Sun. 11:15am Mass *FIRST COMMUNION* 🌻

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Peter B., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick K., John Geving, Donna L.

You have heard of the Camino de Santiago in Spain yet have you heard of the Camino de Sonoma? Closer to home and no bad airplane food to endure.

Our Camino offers a day or two of walking, spirituality, reflection and camaraderie. May 26, a walk of 9 miles, and June 2, 11 miles, showcase two of the five stages on the Camino de Sonoma. And yes, there two stages involving St. Philips. For more information on these two walks and the five walks of the Camino de Sonoma contact: For More Info, & What to Bring: Stephen Morris email dsryouth@srdiocese.org or Joe Conway email BodegaJoe@icloud.com

Organizers: Santa Rosa Diocese & St. Eugene's Cathedral in partnership with The Camino de Sonoma.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MAY, 2022

On Tuesday, May 10, we welcomed fifty-seven families, (125 individuals) to receive nutritional support from our Rural Food Program. All who are in need are welcome to attend this monthly food distribution.

Each month our dedicated volunteers repackage proteins including fresh eggs for our clients. They repackage eggs into over 80 dozen egg cartons. This month we came very close to running out of egg cartons! PLEASE CONSIDER SAVING YOUR CLEAN EGG CARTONS and donate them to our program by dropping them off at the parish hall. We thank you in advance. We also appreciate your donation of clean, handled paper bags. We can save the environment and save some money with your support.

Our program is open to all who are in need. If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information and to answer your questions.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions. RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area: Saturday, June 11, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, June 13, 9:00 – 11:00am set up and Tuesday, June 14, 7:30a – 11:00a to distribute food to clients.



Blessed Chiara Badano and the beatification day miracle | [Everyday Miracles](#)

By [Chiara Catipon](#)

A number of years ago, I was asked to be part of the organizing committee for the beatification ceremony of a young Italian woman, Chiara Badano. Having just moved to the international youth headquarters of the Focolare Movement in Rome, I spent weeks wading through books and

Vatican documents in order to grasp the heroic virtues lived by this young woman who had died of leukemia at the age of 18.

In December 2009, we received confirmation that the beatification would take place and that we would need to prepare a worthy ceremony for September 25, 2010. We decided on two venues for the event: the sanctuary of *Divino Amore* in Rome for the Mass and the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican for the celebration afterwards. We had chosen the sanctuary because thousands were expected to arrive from all over the world and it had an extensive outdoor space which we could use for the expected spillover. The Paul VI Hall would host for the first time in history an event for young people that included a rock concert and modern dance performances.

Organizing such an event brings with it many challenges: translations, media coverage, the creation of an official hymn, and dance choreographies, just to name a few! But the biggest challenge of all was the threat of downpour. As the big day came closer, we learned that rain was expected for that week. This created all kinds of logistical concerns because of our reliance on being able to use the sanctuary's outdoor space. For one thing, we were worried that the sound system and the giant screens outside would break down. But mostly we were concerned about all the people that would get drenched and the ensuing health issues.

We considered what options were open to us. One of our members even designed and proposed a way to cover the space. Of course, this all had to be constructed and paid for with money we knew not where to get. In the end, the organizers felt that this was time for a radical display of trust. Since the shrine was well known for all the miracles that had happened there and Blessed Chiara would be on "our" side, we decided to go ahead with the plans and leave the weather in God's hands.

Looking back at it now, it was perhaps the biggest miracle I had ever witnessed in my life. Though it was raining in the area around us, it did not come within the circumference of the shrine. Not a raindrop was felt throughout the Mass by the more than 20,000 people who were outside. We even heard later that the weather reporters could not explain why the area around the sanctuary had remained dry.

But in a way, the bigger miracle was Blessed Chiara herself and how her life has touched so many people. The documentary film we made about her life was the source of profound spiritual experience for more than one of the production team. And on the day of the beatification, as we meandered through the traffic of Rome on our way to Paul VI Hall, there was an indescribable atmosphere of joy among all the people – young and old, entire families, priests, religious men and women, bystanders. When the evening ended with the parents of Blessed Chiara (Luce) Badano thanking all the participants, heaven seemed to have opened up and enveloped the entire hall. It was an experience that has marked my life.

By hearsay I had heard of you, but now my eye has seen you Job 42:5

In his poem called “Dumnesse” the 17th century writer Thomas Traherne suggests that Adam in the Garden of Eden was pleasantly ignorant of language. Awed by all he saw around him he remained spellbound, speechless: *Sure Man was born to . . . Contemplate the Eternal Springs / . . . of God and Nature, . . . / And therefore Speechless made at first . . . // This, my Dear friends, this was my Blessed Case; / For nothing spoke to me but the fair Face / Of Heav’n and Earth, before my self could speak.* But the moment Adam began to say, “Wow!” and “Look at that!” and “Look at this!” and began to name and classify things, evaluate them, compare them by judging this to be prettier than that - the spell was broken. Tedious chatter usurped his original awe and delight - as Traherne has him admit: *I then my Bliss did, when my Silence, break.*

We his descendants have been caught up in chatter ever since. We have all been born into a world of adversarial discourse coming at us out the newspapers and TV. We engage in it during coffee breaks and over the dinner table. We have fallen into a world of constant argument over what’s mine and what’s yours, who’s right and who’s wrong. We have created an environment of non-stop litigation in and out of courtrooms. We have in fact turned our world into one grand courtroom where we have all become judges and juries, spouting verdicts, imposing sentences upon each other individually and as ethnic groups or nations or churches. We even tend to view God as a Judge instead of the original Creator/Poet she/he is. And the consequences of all this polarized discourse? Wariness and war, meanness ranging from petty to horrific.

Well it take’s some doing to snap out of it! For instance, in the *Book of Job* God has to use a whirlwind to stop Job’s chatter. Job was not only articulate but awfully longwinded when it came to justifying his [impossibly?] perfect behavior. For thirty chapters he petulantly demands that God arrange reality to suit Job’s sense of justice. God finally brings the discourse to an end by sweeping him aloft and confronting him with all the immensity and variety of the universe. He shows him the source of the stars, the storehouses of the snow, the mating of mountain goats, until Job is silenced, struck dumb before the wonders of a reality that place his grievances in the context of so much more than the Internet or editorial page – a “so much more” that could reveal our solidarity with each other and nature itself - make Job’s own egocentric focus seem trivial.

I think our tradition touches upon this during this season of Ascension and Pentecost. It invites us to “ascend” with Christ above and beyond the din of inherited controversy, to attain a vantage point from which we might quietly contemplate or inhale the prospect of a universe pulsating with grace and mutual forgiveness - even as Keats described when first Cortez gazed with eagle eyes upon the vast Pacific: *- and all his men looked at each other in wild surmise - silent, upon a peak in Darien.* Silent, yes - but only as prelude to an overture, to our acquiring a new way of talking, a new way of articulating ourselves as poets, lovers - possessed of fiery tongues that come of God’s inspiration, God’s Pentecostal Spirit purging our being.



--Geoff Wood, 5/29/2022