



Bringing Home the Word

The Ascension of the Lord (C)

June 1, 2025

How Far Is Up?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

It depends upon your understanding of cosmology, the religious explanation of the nature and structure of the universe. If Jesus ascended into heaven, how far up did he go? This also depends upon your understanding of cosmology. These are not foolish questions. We might not be experts in the field of cosmology, but many of us know a bit about galaxies, spacetime, and black holes, if only from *Star Trek*. So, with this minimal cosmological knowledge, how should we understand Acts 1:9 when “a cloud took [Jesus] from their sight”? Did he just keep going up?

Sunday Readings

Acts 1:1–11

[Jesus said,] “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.”

Ephesians 1:17–23 or Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church.

Luke 24:46–53

As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to Jesus’ ascension, but he does not describe a mystifying event, as today’s gospel reading does. Instead, he speaks of Jesus’ exaltation at God’s right hand. Perhaps it was fitting that Jesus ascended into the sky, emphasizing that what occurred was more than mere physical exaltation. Rather, it was a way of stating that Jesus has now achieved honor and glory far beyond anything that is human, earthly, or created. He now enjoys divine glorification.

Still, even Paul uses metaphorical language when he says that Jesus sits at God’s right hand in heaven. We know that heaven is more than a place; it is also a state of total fulfillment. We also know that to be seated at the host’s right hand means to be awarded the place of honor at the banquet. So, Paul is saying that Jesus enjoys total fulfillment in the place of honor next to his Father, where he is now praised as the beginning and end of all that is. This is reason to rejoice. †

***Jesus has now achieved
honor and glory far
beyond anything that is
human, earthly, or created.***

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Christian hope sustains the journey of our lives, even when the road ahead seems winding and exhausting. It opens our eyes to future possibilities whenever resignation or pessimism attempts to imprison us.... [Christian hope] makes us dream of a new humanity and gives us courage in our efforts to build a fraternal and peaceful world.

HOMILY, ST. PETER’S BASILICA,
MAY 9, 2024



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Am I a witness to the gospel as Jesus calls his disciples to be?
- Of which gift of the Holy Spirit do I need to be a better witness?



Summer Opportunities

John Bartunek, LC, SThD

Summer has two contradictory personalities. On the one hand, it's a season meant for hard work—just watch a farmer or rancher sweating from sunup to sundown during the hot

summer months. On the other hand, we tend to associate summer with rest and vacations. It takes wisdom to know how to balance these two conflicting summer trends. The wise person will recognize both opportunities and maximize each. This is the wisdom of summer: taking advantage of the opportunities life presents to us instead of letting them slip by unseen.

When someone gifted with creativity gets a sharp new idea about how to make his parish, workplace, or community

better, that also is an opportunity. It's a chance to make this world a better place while at the same time fulfilling one's own potential. Too often, though, another voice takes over. That voice starts to complain about how hard it will be to make a change and all the obstacles that must be overcome, which can convince us to see golden opportunities as mere pipe dreams.

***The wise person
takes advantage
of opportunities
when they come.***

Life gives us opportunities, and the wise person recognizes and takes advantage of them when they come. We can learn to be wiser, to order our lives better, so that when the many chances of summer come our way, we can welcome them all. There is a time to work hard and a time to relax, a time to do something and a time to let things be. The wise person understands the differences. †

From *Summer Meditations* by John Bartunek, LC, SThD, Liguori Publications (825620). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Liturgical Music: Sing Well, Pray Twice" by Orin Johnson

Music is an integral element of the liturgy that helps it nourish and foster the faith. That quality, in conjunction with the fully conscious and active participation of the faithful, remains the aim of liturgical music for the glory of God and for our own sanctification.

We gather in liturgical assembly, week after week, singing our thanks to God. This common, sung expression of faith within liturgical celebrations strengthens our faith when it grows weak and draws us into the divinely inspired voice of the Church at prayer. Faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Lord Jesus, I pray for the guidance and inspiration of your Holy Spirit that I may be your faithful witness.
Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 2-7

Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 19:1-8 / Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, St. Charles Lwanga and

Companions: Acts 20:17-27 /

Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 20:28-38 / Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, St. Boniface:

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 / Jn 17:20-26

Friday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 25:13b-21 / Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 / Jn 21:20-25

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

June 1, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.



Bringing Home the Word +

Pentecost (C)
June 8, 2025

Different Gifts, Service, and Workings

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Paul's choice of words, found in his instruction to the Corinthians, is telling. *Gifts* refer to certain actions of the Holy Spirit; *service* is assistance within the community; and *workings* point to the dynamic power of God. Together, these realities might raise questions, such as, *What do I have? What can I do? How can I do it?* This is the lesson of Pentecost.

We all possess remarkable gifts and abilities, some of which we might not even know we have until we are called

upon to exercise them. Many interpreters think Paul was referring here to the extraordinary spiritual gifts that became obvious during liturgical services— gifts like speaking in tongues. However, he expands this list to include gifts such as teaching, generosity, and acting with mercy. (See Romans 12:6–8.) Many of us possess these gifts.

As for service, all we have to do is look around to find people in our families, our parishes, and our workplaces who need our help, even if it is simple and limited. We cannot excuse ourselves by thinking, *I can't. I don't have what it takes.*

The feast we celebrate today reminds us that we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, working through our gifts and talents, to serve others. Everyone can do something; everyone must do something. Paul underscores this with the image of the body, which is made up of different parts. Either we work together doing what we can, or the entire body suffers. Remember, we have the power of the Spirit. ✠

We have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, working through our gifts and talents, to serve others.

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Dear brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit is he who creates harmony...from different, at times even conflicting, realities... Let us pray to the Holy Spirit... that he may create harmony in hearts, harmony in families, harmony in society, harmony in the entire world. May the Spirit... give leaders the courage to make gestures of dialogue, that lead to an end to wars.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 19, 2024



Sunday Readings

Acts 2:1–11

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Romans 8:8–17

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons.

John 20:19–23 or John 14:15–16, 23b–26

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What gifts do I have?
- What services can I perform?



The Spirit Unites Us

St. Alphonsus Liguori, adapted by David Werthmann

Love provides rest that refreshes the soul. When people are in love, they forget all the cares of the world when they are together. Love unites their hearts despite differences they may have, and life

is just not the same when they are apart. Similarly, divine love unites we who are loved to God who loves us. If we deeply love God, we can be confident of the Holy Spirit's constant presence and care for us.

Unfortunately, pains and tribulations occur in every person's life. Yet, when we are confronted with some sort of "cross" in life, the Holy Spirit reminds us that we never carry it alone. That's because we are helped by Jesus Christ, who carries all

our crosses along with us. That belief should comfort anyone seeking to deepen his or her relationship with God. It means we can trust the Spirit's guidance to help us get through any loss, any trial, or any suffering that afflicts us. Then we will find peace and contentment—and even encouragement in the knowledge that God's love for us is endless. And that brings "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Think about how you felt when you experienced unconditional love from a parent, spouse, or dear friend who helped you get through a particularly difficult time. Are you able to express that kind of love—that is, God's love—toward others? †

The Holy Spirit reminds us that we never carry our cross alone.

From *Novena to the Holy Spirit with St. Alphonsus*, adapted by David Werthmann, Liguori Publications (828454). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Opening the Gifts of the Holy Spirit"

We usually think of confirmation as the sacrament of the Holy Spirit. But confirmation is best understood in relation to baptism and the Eucharist. An analogy illustrates the relationship among the three sacraments of initiation. Consider what you do when you are to attend a banquet. You (1) take off your old clothes and wash up; (2) dry off and put on your good clothes; and (3) go to the banquet. Baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist exist in a similar relationship. We (1) take off the old, sinful person and wash away original sin, receiving new life in baptism; (2) put on the new person and are anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit in confirmation; and (3) are led to the eucharistic banquet.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Lord Jesus, send your Spirit upon my family, my community, my country, and all people of the world, that we may see each other as children of God. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 9–14

Monday, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church: Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 / Jn 19:25–34

Tuesday, Weekday: 2 Cor 1:18–22 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, St. Barnabas: Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, Weekday: 2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, St. Anthony of Padua: 2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 5:27–32

Saturday, Weekday: 2 Cor 5:14–21 / Mt 5:33–37

Bringing Home
the Word 

June 8, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Trinity (C)

June 15, 2025

I Believe in God

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

What do we mean when we say this? We are saying that we don't understand it, but we believe it; we accept it as truth. How do we know it's true? First, we must remember that we are standing before the greatest mystery of all—the mystery of the triune God. The best we can do is open our eyes to the power of God working in our lives. Today's readings help us do that.

In the first reading, the wisdom of God takes our hand and leads us through the marvels of creation. Who has not stood in awe before a sunset, a waterfall, or the smile of an infant? We

are surrounded by the wonders of the natural world—wonders that can fashion us into natural mystics and prompt us to praise our Creator.

Once transformed by his encounter with the risen Christ, Paul proclaims again and again that “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). He knows from experience that Jesus is his Savior and the Savior of us all. We may not always realize this, but there are times in the life of each of us when we experience a profound need to be saved.

Finally, in the gospel, it was Jesus himself who promised that the “Spirit of truth” would come and strengthen our faith (John 16:13). Without that Spirit, we might simply wander about in confusion. These readings provide a glimpse into the action of God in our lives. Do we believe what they say? †



***We are standing before
the greatest mystery
of all—the mystery
of the triune God.***

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

If God is love, do our communities bear witness to this? Do they know how to love?... Do we know how to love in the family?... Do we know how to welcome everyone—and I emphasize, everyone—as brothers and sisters?... God is love, God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 4, 2023



Sunday Readings

Proverbs 8:22–31

When he established the heavens,
there was I.

Romans 5:1–5

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

John 16:12–15

[Jesus said,] “When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Am I comfortable with doubt?
- In times of doubt, pray this simple prayer: “I believe. Help my unbelief.”



The Difficulty of Explaining the Trinity

James L. Papandrea, PhD

It's been said that more heresy is (accidentally) preached on Trinity Sunday than at any other time of the year. This is because...the doctrine of the Trinity is difficult to understand, and it is even more

difficult to explain. When we have to explain the doctrine of the Trinity, we often resort to analogies of "three in one."

This may be the best option we have, though all analogies ultimately fall short because none of them completely captures the balance between oneness (unity) and "threeness" (distinction). They are all either too heavy on the unity, with not enough distinction...or they are too heavy on the distinction, with not enough unity...

***It is this balance
of unity...
and distinction...
that we strive for.***

It is this balance of unity...and distinction...that we strive for in explaining the Trinity with analogies—but which proves to be elusive. The problem is that no analogy from the created world can successfully exemplify both the oneness and the threeness at the same time. A thing is either one thing with three parts, or three things that have some common relationship.... We're trying to use creation to describe the Creator, and since creation is finite, that only gets us so far.

When analogies fail, the only option left may be to describe the Trinity by saying what the Trinity is not. The Trinity is not three gods. The Trinity is also not simply three masks, or hats, worn by the one God when he wants to perform different functions. †

From *Trinity 101: Father, Son, Holy Spirit* by James L. Papandrea, PhD, Liguori Publications (820823). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "What Catholics Believe" by Leonard Foley, OFM

There is a sentence that sums up the whole Bible: "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). God is spirit. God is not "he" or "she." God is mystery—not a puzzle, but unfathomable being and love. God is not just another being, but the foundation of all being. We would never have known that God is Father-Son-Spirit—one God, three persons—unless he had revealed his inner self through Jesus. Jesus brought the Good News (gospel) that God loves all people on earth—sinful, saintly, or lukewarm—and offers them eternal life.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



God of all people—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
as you are love, teach us
to love each other and
create a world that is safe
for every mother's child,
we pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 16–21

Monday, Weekday:

2 Cor 6:1–10 / Mt 5:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday:

2 Cor 8:1–9 / Mt 5:43–48

Wednesday, Weekday:

2 Cor 9:6–11 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday, Weekday:

2 Cor 11:1–11 / Mt 6:7–15

Friday, Weekday:

2 Cor 11:18, 21–30 / Mt 6:19–23

Saturday, St. Aloysius Gonzaga:

2 Cor 12:1–10 / Mt 6:24–34

Bringing Home
the Word 

June 15, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (C)

June 22, 2025

Eat and Drink

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Bread and wine, the basics for most Mediterranean diets, are featured in the readings for this feast. They were the gifts that were offered to God Most High by the priest-king Melchizedek, as stated in Genesis. Because these gifts represent the staples of life, such a sacrifice was offered because it symbolized the offering of life itself. Who was this mysterious man who blessed Abram, when Abram usually blessed others? We have no answer.

This theme of bread and wine shifts a bit in the gospel passage. There, the meal consisted of bread and fish, traditional

fare of fisher folk. Hence, this meal also symbolized life. We stand open-mouthed when we realize the multitude of people who were fed on such a sparse amount of food. How could this happen? Mystery abounds!

In the first reading, the essence of life is offered to God. In the gospel, the essence of life is offered to the people. It is in Paul's letter that we find the high point of the readings and of the feast itself. There, Paul proclaims what was probably one of the earliest eucharistic formulas of the early Church. It ends with an admonition from Christ himself: "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24). Here, the bread and wine that was first offered to God, and then offered to the people, is the very Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This remembrance of his death is really a celebration of life. The mystery here is incomprehensible. †



The multitude were fed on a sparse amount of food. How could this happen?

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Our eucharistic adoration comes alive when we take care of our neighbor like Jesus does. There is hunger for food around us, but also for companionship; there is hunger for consolation, friendship, good humor; there is hunger for attention; there is hunger to be evangelized.... We need to eat and *feed others*.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 19, 2022



Sunday Readings

Genesis 14:18–20

Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of God Most High.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Luke 9:11b–17

[Jesus] said to them, "Give them some food yourselves." They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I worry about not having enough?
- How can I live as if I believe in abundance?



The History of Corpus Christi

Around 1209, a group of holy women in Liège, Belgium, established a center dedicated to eucharistic piety. These women were convinced that the Lord desired the celebration of a new feast dedicated to the reserved sacrament of the altar. This feast became known

as Corpus Christi. For this feast, St. Thomas Aquinas composed beautiful hymns that expertly combined dogma with devotion.

With its rich eucharistic liturgy and procession, the feast of Corpus Christi is an occasion of special praise and thanksgiving offered to the Father in the name of all creation, and of special thanksgiving for the institution of the Eucharist, in which Christ's Body is the bread of life.... The Corpus Christi procession is a solemn act of public adoration and praise.... In many Catholic towns, houses are decorated

for this procession. There are beautiful arrangements of flowers, especially before the four altars where the gospels are chanted and the solemn Benediction is given. Church choirs and musicians also perform.... The Corpus Christi procession is a kind of cosmic liturgy. Symbolically, it invites all creatures to join in the Church's joy, gratitude, and praise. Thus, festivity and solemnity combine in this eucharistic celebration and procession.

**Church processions
symbolize our
pilgrimage to our
final destination.**

Church processions, but particularly the Corpus Christi procession, symbolize our pilgrimage on the road to our final destination, with Christ accompanying us, for he is the Way and our final home. The feast of Corpus Christi is still a major feast in the Church today and reverently celebrated by

Catholic communities around the world. †

From *Forty Hours: Eucharistic Adoration*, a Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, Liguori Publications (828737). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From *"Eucharistic Adoration: Drawing Closer to Jesus"* by Kathleen M. Carroll

For Catholics, the Eucharist is no mere symbol of Jesus; we believe that the consecrated host is actually the Body, Blood, soul, and divinity of Christ. Receiving Communion at Mass is our best opportunity to fully experience Christ within our parish communities. We come to the table of the Lord with our fellow believers and become one collective body as we share in Jesus' sacrifice in a tangible way. Eucharistic adoration gives us a chance to be with our Savior one on one...and bring to him all our cares, concerns, prayers, hopes, and thoughts. We set aside a special time, a respite from our hectic lives, to create a personal space in which to meet Our Lord.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



God of abundance, as we are fed in the Eucharist, may we be mindful of the unspoken hungers of those around us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 23–28

Monday, Weekday:

Gn 12:1–9 / Mt 7:1–5

Tuesday, Nativity of St. John the Baptist:

Is 49:1–6 / Acts 13:22–26 / Lk 1:57–66, 80

Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 15:1–12, 17–18 / Mt 7:15–20

Thursday, Weekday: Gn 16:1–12, 15–16 or 16:6b–12, 15–16 / Mt 7:21–29

Friday, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Ez 34:11–16 / Rom 5:5b–11 / Lk 15:3–7

Saturday, Weekday:

Gn 18:1–15 / Mt 8:5–17



Bringing Home the Word

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

June 29, 2025

Our Story

Mary Katherine Deeley

What was it like in those years after the crucifixion? What was it like to talk about an experience and a relationship unlike anything ever encountered? What was it like to go to jail for preaching what you described as good news even though it seemed foolish to many of those who were listening? Saint Paul saw it in terms of a race whose finish line was heaven and for which he was willing to spend his last ounce of energy. Saint Peter saw that once he acknowledged who Jesus was, he had no choice but to proclaim the truth of his heart. He knew Jesus was the Messiah because he saw it in

the look of those who were healed, fed, and restored at Christ's hand. He experienced it in the love Christ gave him, even after he denied Jesus at his trial. He saw it in the faces of those whom he healed in Christ's name and who eagerly came to baptism and the outpouring of the Spirit.

What is it like now? How do we know that Jesus is the Messiah in our hearts? And how has that made a difference in our lives? Is this relationship so unlike any other that we are willing to be poured out, to spend our energy, to proclaim the Good News even though it may seem foolish? It's an uncomfortable question for many Catholics today. For many of us, religion and faith are private matters, and sometimes that helps us avoid arguments or endless debate. But the compelling story of our redemption begs to be told, if not in words, then in lives transformed. This is our story and our race to be run full out to the very last. †



*The compelling story
of our redemption
begs to be told.*

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Jesus says to Simon, whom he named Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 16:19)... The mission that Jesus entrusts to Peter is not to bar the doors to the house, permitting entry only to a few select guests, but rather to help everyone find the way to enter, in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus. Everyone, everyone, everyone can enter.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 29, 2024



Sunday Readings

Acts 12:1–11

[Peter said,] "Now I know for certain that [the] Lord sent his angel and rescued me."

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

Matthew 16:13–19

[Jesus said,] "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I attempt to understand the different opinions of others?
- Do I let disagreements get personal?



Saint Paul: Servant of Jesus Christ

Fr. William J. Parker, CSsR

Saint Paul referred to himself as “the servant of Jesus Christ.” His life and teachings reveal his passion to spread the faith across the globe. In Paul’s letters, we find the personal cost of his love for

may have brought the letter to the community on behalf of Paul. (See Romans 16:1–2.) Paul referred to her as “minister” (*diakonoï*) which is the same word he used for himself to mean “one who provides relief to others.” (See 1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 3:1–11.)

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome. While imprisoned, Paul wrote one of his most joyous letters to the Philippians: “I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has turned out rather to advance the gospel, so that my imprisonment has become well known in Christ throughout the whole praetorium and to all the rest,

Jesus and the vibrant energy with which he engaged men and women as coworkers in this missionary endeavor.

It may come as a surprise to some that many of his closest coworkers were women. Priscilla (also referred to as Prisca) and her husband, Aquila, shared a special relationship with St. Paul. (See 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3.) He acknowledged the depth of his gratitude to them: “Greet Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life” (Romans 16:3–4). The term describing them as fellow workers is the same he used to describe Timothy and Titus, who coauthored several of Paul’s letters. In another case, Paul commended Phoebe to the Church in Rome; she

***Saint Paul’s life
and teachings
reveal his passion
to spread the faith.***

and so that the majority of the brothers, having taken encouragement in the Lord from my imprisonment, dare more than ever to proclaim the word fearlessly” (Philippians 1:12–14). Only an extraordinary love and a sense of being loved can yield such joy! †

From *Saint Paul: His Life and Teachings* by Fr. William J. Parker, CSsR, Liguori Publications (817762). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Acts of the Apostles” by Ronald D. Witherup, SS

The [Book of] the Acts of the Apostles reveals a Church that is a multicultural, universal community. A great hallmark of the Catholic Church has always been its openness to this diversity. Catholic (from the Greek *katholikos*) means “universal.” In St. Peter’s speech at the conversion of Cornelius and his household, who were Gentiles from Caesarea, he begins: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation, whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him (Acts 10:34–35). Languages and accents may differ, customs and styles of dress may vary, but the call of Jesus Christ is universal.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Gracious God, give me the desire to understand those with whom I disagree and the humility to admit that my certainty may be misguided. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 30—July 5

Monday, Weekday:

Gn 18:16–33 / Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday, Weekday:

Gn 19:15–29 / Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 21:5, 8–20a / Mt 8:28–34

Thursday, St. Thomas:

Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

Friday, Weekday:

Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 / Mt 9:9–13

Saturday, Weekday:

Gn 27:1–5, 15–29 / Mt 9:14–17

Bringing Home
the Word 

June 29, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.

