



# Bringing Home the Word

The Ascension of the Lord (A)  
May 17, 2026

## Power Unmasked

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

When the Lone Ranger and Tonto rode across our TV screens in days of old, someone would often ask, “Who was that masked man?” Folks never learned his identity, and it didn’t matter. Because that man had saved them from evil, restoring their lives. In a sense, the Ranger, with Tonto, had passed on to them the power to live safely and productively.

As he was about to return to his Father, the risen Lord said to the apostles, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and

you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Yet, being blessed with the power that raised the Lord Jesus does not always feel much like a blessing. At times, it can feel more like a burden that falls upon our shoulders, one to heal and mend as we try to bring peace and a better world. We wonder why we always must be the one who says, “I’m sorry.” Why we always must be the one who plans the evening out or writes the Christmas cards or calls Mom or spends time with the children or listens to someone’s tale of woe? Yet, such is the power of Jesus for bringing about healing to both spirits and bodies, for creating joy, for designing bridges into the hearts of others, all because the Messiah rode off on a cloud of silver to be welcomed to the right hand of God. Thus he empowers us. †

## Sunday Readings

### Acts 1:1–11

As they were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

### Ephesians 1:17–23

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

### Matthew 28:16–20

[Jesus said,] “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

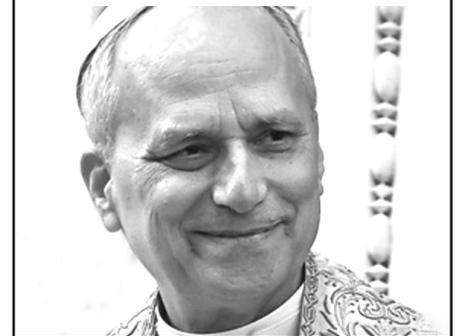


**Being blessed with power does not always feel like a blessing.**

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?... Fraternity... means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.

ADDRESS TO MEETING ON HUMAN FRATERNITY, ROME, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have you ever been surprised by the good God has done through you?
- Why were you surprised?



# An Easter People's Mission

Leslie Albizzati

**W**e are an Easter people, resurrected sons and daughters, who have encountered the risen Lord. Alleluia is our song! Alleluia is a song of exaltation, a song of indescribable joy, and a song of praise and thanksgiving. Is it your song? I admit that it is not always my song. I earnestly want it to be, but sometimes I forget that the One who conquered sin, bought my freedom with his life, defeated death, and loves me unconditionally ushers in, for each of us, Alleluia as our song. Will we claim that song of jubilation, praising what God has done? As C. S. Lewis reminds us in *Mere Christianity*, "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, he would have done no less." That is how much he loves us!

We have heard the "Good News of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). It comes to all the people only if we choose to live in that great joy. It comes to all the people only if we participate in proclaiming the Good News. It's a daily

choice to see the Good News, live the Good News, and share the Good News.

Our mission as an Easter people is to be the sweet song of Alleluia for each person who enters our lives. Let our song fill the air so others may hear and may experience the power of the living God—so that they may be drawn out of the barren, arid desert lands and into new life. Let us "sing a new song to the LORD" (Psalm 98:1) and remember that "this is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad" (Psalm 118:24). †

***Our mission is to be the song of Alleluia for each person who enters our lives.***

From *The Desert Walk: A Journey Through Lent with Jesus* by Leslie Albizzati, Liguori Publications (828836). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "The Church Walks with Migrants" by Fr. Michael McAndrew, CSsR.

From 1914 to the 1990s, papal messages for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees emphasized the causes of emigration. The Church and world leaders called for resolution of the causes: wars, revolutions, ethnic and religious persecution, extortion, gangs, and natural disasters. Pope St. John Paul II expressed concern that there was a gradual movement internationally to place the blame of migration on the migrants themselves, rather than on the true causes of migration. He warned that blaming the migrants for the challenges of migration was founded on prejudice and racism. In his message for World Migration Day in 1996, he wrote, "In the Church, no one is a stranger, and the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere."

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



Lord Jesus, show us where to look for you and open our eyes to recognize your presence among us, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 18–23

**Monday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 19:1–8 / Jn 16:29–33

**Tuesday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 20:17–27 / Jn 17:1–11a

**Wednesday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 20:28–38 / Jn 17:11b–19

**Thursday, Easter Weekday:** 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



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