



**Clement
Manor**

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

The Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

**The eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them,
“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”**



Evangelizing All Nations

Ascension of Our Lord (Year A)

What a monumental task the Apostles were given! These are Jesus' parting words as He stands on the Mount of the Ascension, the final words recorded in Matthew's Gospel. They are powerful words by which Jesus entrusts extraordinary responsibility to eleven of His closest companions. Their mission was not merely to gain new followers but to proclaim the Gospel to every nation. Additionally, they were to baptize all nations and teach them everything Jesus had commanded.

This incredible task would have seemed daunting, if not impossible. Yet it is grounded in divine authority: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore..." These are not mere words of encouragement but a divine command, rooted in the authority entrusted to Jesus by the Father. With this declaration, Jesus equips the Apostles with the grace to fulfill their mission, knowing they act under His authority.

The Ascension marks a fundamental transition in salvation history. Before the Incarnation, God established covenants with His people and sent prophets to call them to fidelity and prepare them for the coming of the Messiah. With Jesus' Incarnation, a new era of salvation history began. Through His Passion and Resurrection, Jesus opened the floodgates of grace and inaugurated the final phase of God's eternal plan. This phase continues today and will only reach its fulfillment when Christ returns in glory to judge the living and the dead and establish the new Heaven and new Earth.

Because we live in this final phase of salvation history, Jesus' words to His Apostles also apply to us. We are not only among the "all nations" called to be disciples, but we also share in the Apostles' mission to evangelize the world. While the Apostles, as the first bishops, had a unique role, every baptized person participates in Christ's mission through the priestly, prophetic, and kingly offices conferred at baptism.

The recently canonized Saint John Henry Newman beautifully illustrates this shared mission in a prayer he wrote: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission...I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons...." Each of us has a unique role to play, and we can be certain that God has given us some definite service to act as a link in a chain and a bond of connection between God and others.

Newman continues: "If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him." This reminds us that Jesus, the all-powerful God who holds "all power in heaven and on earth," can use every aspect of our lives for His glory and mission—if we let Him.



Reflect today on two truths. First, consider your place among the “all nations” called to become disciples. Second, reflect on your duty as a disciple to share in Christ’s mission to evangelize the world. As we celebrate our Lord’s Ascension, hear His commission spoken to you. Embrace the privilege and responsibility of His command, allowing His authority and presence to guide your life and your mission.

Lord of all power in Heaven and Earth, You have called all people to Yourself. I accept that call and open myself to Your gift of eternal salvation. With my “Yes” to You, I also accept the responsibility to share in Your mission of evangelization. Please reveal Your will to me and empower me to fulfill my duty so that all nations will hear Your saving Word. Jesus, I trust in You.

If you have any personal intentions you would like to add they will be added to our list, contact Tom 546-7980 or tbrefka@clementmanor.org:

Prayer Intentions:

- For those residents who are sick: May they feel the healing presence of God
- For the Church throughout the world, that the Ascended Lord may strengthen us to proclaim the Gospel with courage, hope, and joy
- For world leaders and all who serve the common good, that Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father, may guide them in justice, peace, and compassion
- For those who feel abandoned, discouraged, or burdened by suffering, that they may trust in the promise of Christ who remains with us always
- For our Clement Manor community, that as we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, we may keep our hearts fixed on heaven while faithfully serving one another on earth

May 31, 9:30am Mass

Join us as we celebrate the many years of service of the priests of Clement Manor.

We are especially grateful for the lives of Fr. Michael Michalski, Fr. Dave Reith, and Fr. Bill Stanfield as they celebrate 50 years of priesthood this Spring. And Fr. Paul Lippert celebrating 65 years.

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The Name Above All Names

Reflection: The risen Lord is visibly and tangibly ascended in the narrative we celebrate this week. But that's not all that goes up. Our reading from Ephesians is clear that the authority of Christ also soars beyond the atmospheric to become the highest power of all. As the Apostles' Creed professes, Christ descended into hell—taking the lowest place there is—only to ascend into heaven, enthroned at God's right hand. No matter how much money you accumulate, what title you attain, or how much clout you wield, as rapper MC Hammer once confidently vowed, "U Can't Touch This."

So why do we remain unconvinced? Why do so many of us believers live as if Christ's cosmic authority is up for debate? Chicago poet Eunice Tietjens wrote in her powerful work, "A Plaint of Complexity," That she feared she'd bowed at too many altars and lit too many fires there. Even the most faithful among us must admit, to our shame, that we have too.

To be sure, we bow to Christ. And also to our own best interests. We offer up some time in prayer. And many more hours to entertainment. We seek wisdom and instruction. Yet we spend more energy pouring over consumer ads and news reports, or wandering the malls coveting everything in sight. We believe what the church teaches. And may hold our own opinions even more ardently.

The altars before which we often choose to bow are multiple and varied. The gods behind them can be petty, unworthy, and even cruel. Jesus descends into hell to bring lost souls to freedom. If we reach up urgently enough even now, there's still time for us to grasp his hand and rise with him.

Meditation: Listing our smaller gods is remarkably easy to do: time, privacy, financial security, personal ambition, individual freedoms, our bellies, our comfort zones, our opinions. Feel free to add to this list. If Christ is the name above all names and the authority greater than every principality and dominion, how does that affect all the side altars we routinely visit?

Prayer: Lord of all, to call you my Lord means renouncing all other claims and possessions as having control over me. Can I do this? With you, all things are possible.

Daily Reflections for Easter to Pentecost 2026—Alice Camille

Holy Father's Monthly Intention May 2026

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Saint Alphonsus, Greendale



Loving and provident God,

You open your hand and satisfy the hunger of every living thing. We lift before you the Holy Father's intention for this month: that all people may have access to nourishing and healthy food, and that hearts may be moved to reject waste and selfishness. Teach us to recognize the bread of this earth as your gift, never to be taken for granted.

Bless farmers, laborers, truck drivers, grocers, cooks, and all who provide food for others. Strengthen world leaders and communities to work for justice so that no child, elder, or family goes hungry. Help us to share generously with those in need and to live with gratitude and moderation.

As Jesus fed the crowds with compassion and abundance, may we become instruments of your care, bringing dignity, hope, and daily bread to all your people. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday May 17, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 1:12-14

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 27:1, 4, 7-8

Gospel, John 17:1-11

Reading 2, Peter 4:13-16



Daily Reading for

Monday May 18, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 19:1-8

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Gospel, John 16:29-33

Daily Reading for

Friday May 22, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 25:13-21

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

Gospel, John 21:15-19

Daily Reading for

Tuesday May 19, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 20:17-27

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:10-11, 20-21

Gospel, John 17:1-11

Daily Reading for

Saturday May 23, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 11:4, 5, 7

Gospel, John 21:20-25

Daily Reading for

Wednesday May 20, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 20:28-38

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:29-30, 33-35, 35-36

Gospel, John 17:11-19

Daily Reading for

Sunday May 24, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Gospel, John 20:19-23

Reading 2, Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Daily Reading for

Thursday May 21, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

Gospel, John 17:20-26



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