

June 1, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

NOT AN ENDING, BUT A BEGINNING

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

You are witnesses of these things.

*And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you;
but stay in the city
until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

*Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
raised his hands, and blessed them.*

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

*They did him homage
and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
and they were continually in the temple praising God.*

LUKE 24:46-53

Reflection

Jesus's Ascension is not a goodbye but a commissioning and a promise. Jesus tells his disciples, "You are witnesses of these things." They are no longer just followers; they are now entrusted with a mission to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in his name to all nations. The disciples are invited to live as witnesses by embodying the message of love, mercy, and resurrection in their daily lives.

Jesus also tells them to wait: "Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." There is wisdom in this instruction. The mission cannot be rushed. First, they must receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This waiting is a time of preparation, of letting the promise take root.

In our lives, we often find ourselves in similar spaces of waiting between knowing what we are called to and being ready to act. Like the disciples, we are invited to trust the promise and to stay rooted in community and prayer until we, too, are clothed with the Spirit's power.

The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' presence; it is the expansion of it. Christ now lives in us, moves through us, and works with us. May we, like the first disciples, become joyful witnesses, praising God with our lives and carrying the hope of the resurrection to the ends of the earth.



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For Pondering

- In what ways is God inviting you to be a witness of love, mercy, and resurrection in your daily life?
- How do you respond to seasons of waiting in your spiritual journey? What might it mean for you to “stay rooted in community and prayer” as you await the Spirit's guidance?

For Prayer

*Lord, your ascension into heaven
fills me with joy
because the time for me to stand around looking
at what you are doing is over.
It's time for me to be involved.
What you have entrusted to me
cracks the shell of my individualism
and of my standing around looking,
making me feel personally responsible
for the salvation of the world.
Lord, you have entrusted your Gospel to me
so that I might proclaim it on every street in the world.
Grant me the same strong faith
that your first apostles had
so that I might not be conquered by fear,
that difficulties might not stop me,
that misunderstanding might not dishearten me,
but that always and everywhere,
I might be your glad tidings,
that I might reveal your love,
just as the martyrs and saint did
throughout the history of all the peoples of the world.*

DOMINICAN FATHERS, ROMAN PROVINCE OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

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