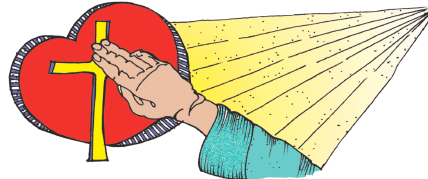




## St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

### Reflections with Fr. Mark

*May 12, 2020*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Dear Parishioners,

Before the Ascension of Jesus, he prepared his disciples for the coming of that event. Jesus promised that He would return. I am sure the disciples rejoiced in that promise and lived in hope of a quick return. We live in that same hope today as we look forward with joy in the promised return of Jesus to us. Keeping this in mind our scriptures remind us today to “not let your hearts be troubled.”

In the time following Jesus’ return to the Father, his disciples bore terrible rejection and persecution, even as the early Church grew and belief in Jesus spread throughout the region. We still find rejection today and religious persecution around the world, even to the point of martyrdom. The Holy Spirit gives us courage in these times as we move always forward toward the Promised Land. For those who have lost hope in this time of pandemic we can be rest assured of God’s presence with us as the persecution we feel today in confinement comes from the invisible enemy of pestilence. Even in this case, we turn trustingly to our Good Shepherd who carries His lambs, some struck with fear, through the dark valley to good pastures.

Blessings as we move forward with the courage of the early Church.

*Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!*

*Fr. Mark*

**Watch Sunday Mass from St. Luke at Home:** The recordings are available on our Parish website, [www.stluketemplecity.org](http://www.stluketemplecity.org), and sent through our e-communications. The services will remain posted so you may view at your convenience.

**Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications:** <https://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19>