**Reflection Continually Praising God**

In both the first reading and the Gospel we are told about Christ’s glorious ascension into heaven. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reminds us that Christ has been seated at God’s right hand in heaven, above every choir of angels. There might be a temptation to stay at an awed distance from Jesus Christ. However, the tone of today’s readings is far from that temptation. The tone is exultant and the message is urgent. We are to be his witnesses, and the Gospel describes the first witnesses this way: “[W]ith great joy...they were continually in the temple praising God” (Luke 24:53). How can we continually praise God? The answer can be in the second reading, in which Paul prays that God will give us a “spirit of wisdom and revelation” in order to know Christ clearly (Ephesians 1:17). We cannot stand at a distance. We are to be enlightened and empowered.

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**News Update**

**Festival News – May 13, 14, 15** – This is our annual parish fundraiser. Your help and support is necessary to make the Festival successful. A) By purchasing and/or selling all the raffle tickets mailed to you. There are more available at the rectory office. B) By coming to the festival and spending your money (with joy!) don’t cook that weekend. C) By sponsoring a booth in memory of a loved one, whose name will be posted at the booth of your choice, or if you own a business and would like your business to be advertised. D) By volunteering to help. E) By donating food items for the various food booths i.e. Filipino, Mexican Linguica, Snack Bar and Beer/Wine/Soda Booth. The Cake Booth is in URGENT NEED OF YOUR BAKING TALENT. Please bring your cakes, pies, cupcakes, cookies, brownies at the Festival May 13, 14 & 15. The donation of your delicious goodies will help make our festival even more successful. We need your help in preparing and working the Festival weekend. If you would like to help out and if you have any questions please contact Linda Montoya at (510) 782-2171.

**Mother Love** – There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it. – *Chinese proverb*

**A Gardener’s Creed** – One is nearer God’s heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth. – *Anonymous*