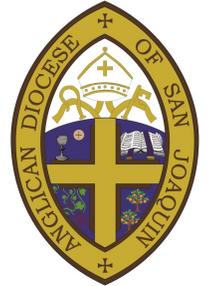


THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN



The Bishop's Corner - Feast of the Ascension

The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed.
Alleluia!

What beautiful words and testimony to the glory and love of God for His people! I pray that you are all having a blessed Eastertide. One of the sad things this time of year is that so many Christians don't go through the whole Triduum to start off Easter, and only come to a service on Easter Sunday. It's of course wonderful to have more people gathered to celebrate the Resurrection; however, going to all the services of the Triduum gives us a full picture of what was leading up to the Resurrection.

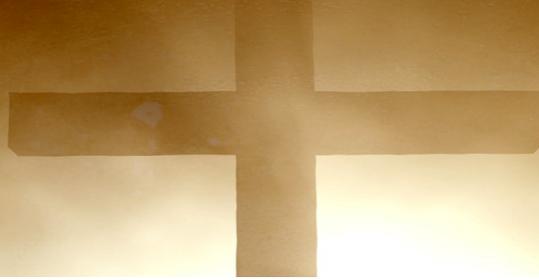
We have a similar issue towards the end of Eastertide. So many Christians come to church on Sunday to celebrate the Feast of the Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles, but not as many remember the Ascension which is celebrated two Thursdays before then. It's unfortunate because when we miss the Feast of the Ascension, like when we miss the Triduum, we don't get the full picture of these blessed events.

There are two main things we learn from the Ascension of Jesus. First, Jesus Christ is fully alive and sitting at the right hand of God the Father. Without this we have

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BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR

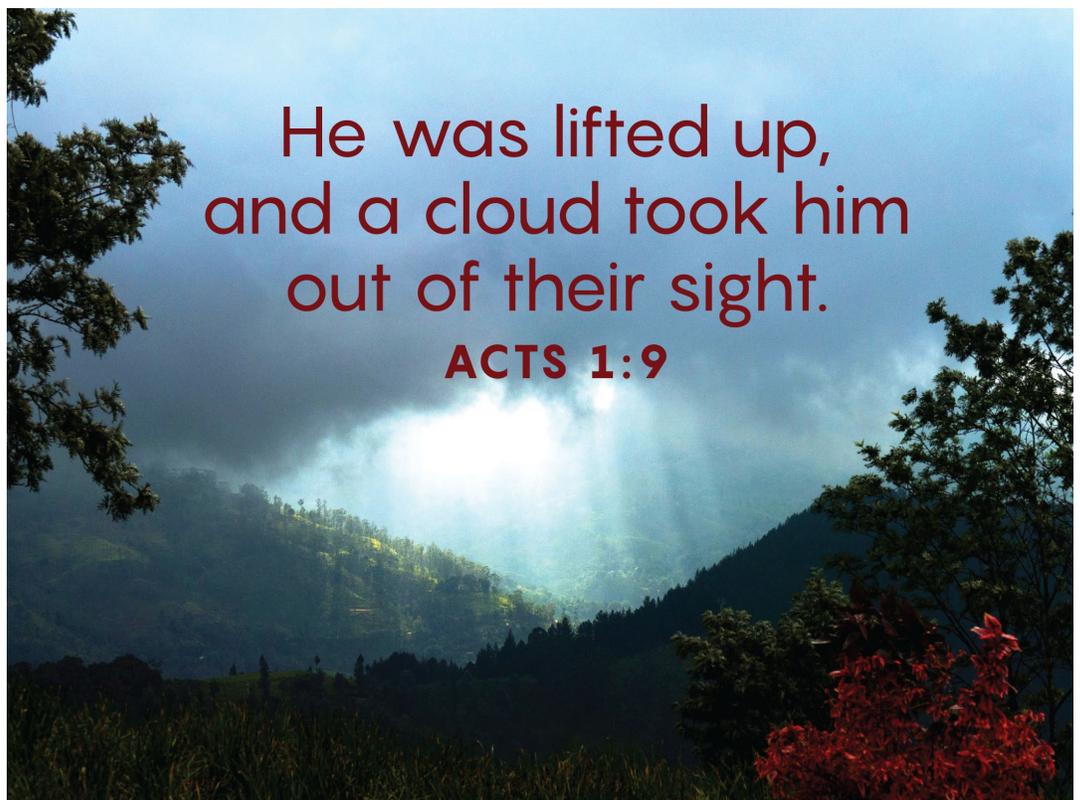
- May 2 - Bishop at Holy Cross, Sanger and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fresno
- May 8 - 10 am Commission on Ministry Meeting
- May 9 - Bishop at Christ Church, Reno
- May 11 - 10 am - Rural Deans Meeting
- May 15 - 10:00 am - Standing Committee Meeting
- May 16 - Bishop at Holy Cross, Sanger and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fresno
- May 17-19 - ACNA West Annual Meeting
- May 18 - 12:00 pm - Northern Deanery and Central Deanery Clericus
- May 19 - 1:30 pm - Southern Deanery Clericus
- May 20 - Bishop at Nashotah House Commencement
- May 21 - The Ordination of Jack Franicevich to the Diaconate
- May 23 - The Day of Pentecost - Bishop at St. James and Our Lady Guadalupe, Fresno
- May 26 - 10:30 am - Diocesan Clergy Zoom Meeting
- May 26 - 5:00 pm - East-West Deanery Clericus on Zoom
- May 30 - Trinity Sunday - Bishop at St. Mark's, Loomis
- May 31 - Memorial Day - Diocesan Office Closed

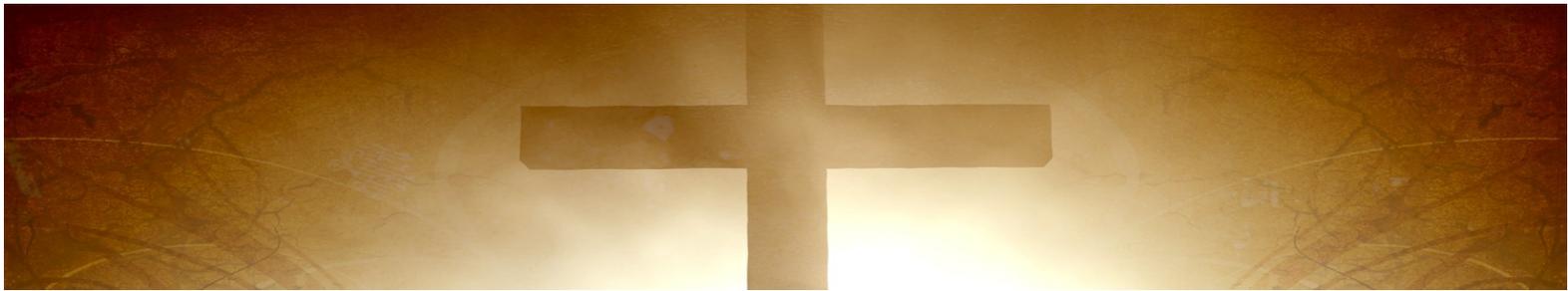


an understanding that Jesus is alive and that the Holy Spirit indwells each of us, but we don't have as good of an understanding of the role Jesus Christ plays in our lives. The Ascension as an event that means Jesus Christ isn't just alive in some random place, **He is with God the Father**, with the purpose of interceding on our behalf! It's not that we as Christians just pray individually to God, it's that the Holy Spirit "himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26) and that in our prayers to the Father, Jesus Christ is our "only mediator and advocate." Jesus wasn't just a historic figure who serves as a role model or some sort of philosopher, **He is alive and the Head of the Church** and the mediator of our relationship with our Father. Because of all of this, the Ascension shows that we have a more active, living relationship with Jesus Christ than we would know from Easter and Pentecost alone.

The second thing we learn from the Ascension is that if Jesus has ascended in this way, He will return in the same manner. As the angel says right after the Ascension, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Combined with The Resurrection this is a reminder that we too will be resurrected, and He will come back not only for judgment, but also so that the faithful will live with him in eternity. As Christians we enjoy lives strengthened by the Holy Spirit's presence; we also live lives of hope in the promises that Christ has made. Christianity is more than having extra support in our lives – the promises are amazing in that when we die, our spirit goes to heaven. Christ's bodily Ascension speaks to that.

When the Feast of the Ascension comes up this year on Thursday May 13, I encourage all of you to go to church if you possibly can. If your church isn't having services or you can't go, then make sure to pray the daily office on your own. Easter isn't an isolated event; it's the beautiful true story that begins with the Last Supper and culminates in the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the Ascension of Jesus is an important part of that story. It is altogether worth our taking part in these glorious events within our church community.





As this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican goes to press, we are beginning to turn a corner in the battle with the coronavirus. Vaccinations are on the increase and new infections are down along with hospitalizations. As a result, the Governor has eliminated capacity requirements in houses of worship.

With restrictions lifting, I am able to begin my long-delayed parish visitations. I was thrilled to make my visitation to Christ the King, Ridgecrest, for the installation of their new rector, the Reverend Fabien Pering. What a joy to see the congregation together to formally welcome their new rector, his wife Charity and their new son, Malachi.



CHRIST THE KING
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Charity, Malachi, &
Fr. Fabien Pering
with
Bishop Eric



Baptism at
St. Timothy's

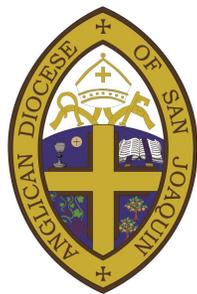
My second visitation the following day was to Saint Timothy's, Bishop, where I was honored to confirm eight high school-aged men and women and to baptize, along with Fr. Lemons, three high school students in Bishop Creek. My third visitation was later that afternoon as I visited Trinity in Lone Pine and received two adults and baptized a child into the faith.

While we may have been highly restricted over the past year, the Holy Spirit has



Confirmation at
St. Timothy's

continued to move in the hearts of men and women bringing them into a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And to that I say AMEN!



Pax Vobiscum

"As the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin, We Will Call and Equip Laity and Clergy to Bring People to, and Disciple Them in, a Saving Relationship with Jesus Christ."

April 23, 2021

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Yesterday the world stopped for just a moment as people held their breath when Judge Peter Cahill read the verdict of the jury in the trial of Derek Chauvin. In that moment people wondered, “Would justice be done?” “Will riots break out?” “Is anyone above the law?” “Will this decision be the match that sparks the fire or the water that puts it out?”

Ultimately, I don’t think that there is a definitive answer to any of those questions as a result of the trial or the verdict. A guilty verdict on all three counts does bring accountability but will not restore life to George Floyd. Riots did not break out but the viral pandemic of racism and inequality that underlies the deep fear and skepticism in the black and brown communities will not go away overnight or in a month or a year.

The only definitive answer to these questions lies in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Racism will only end when we truly recognize that all people are created in the image of God and endowed by God with certain unalienable rights. Lawlessness will only end when we find our beginning and end in He who is the Alpha and the Omega. A sense of “endowed privilege” will only end with the humility of recognizing that we are all sinners in need of a savior.

I recognize that this may sound like pure idealism. However, the thing that shook the Roman Empire to the core was the very idealism found in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Where in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female as Galatians 3:28 so beautifully puts it. For the first time in history people of all tribes, Languages and nations were not bound by a common nationality, culture or language, but in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Living out the idealism of The Great Commandment and The Great Commission became the foundation for the nuclear family, education and hospitals just to name a few of the institutions that changed the world. We may not end racism or violence or poverty in our generation; however, in Christ Jesus we can make a huge impact in the lives of individuals and in our communities.

My prayer for myself and the diocese is that we will model for our congregations and communities the self-examination and repentance needed to make a change. That we will model for our congregations and communities the Grace received in Christ that allows us to step up and live transformed lives. That we will model for our congregations and communities what it means to go into the world everyday living out the charge given at the end of our worship – “To go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+Eui Menez



AN EXCERPT FROM
REFLECTIONS FROM
THE FORMER ARCHDEACON
BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

Christian Marriage

The Epistle to the Ephesians holds an important key to successful family life. The 21st verse of the 5th Chapter declares, “Be subject (or submissive) to one another out of reverence for Christ.” When you consider the modern attitude of “me first,” mutual submission becomes a radical, transforming way of living. The motive for this unique life is, of course, “reverence for Christ.” It is out of a deep awe and reverence for what Jesus has done for us on the Cross that motivates our desire for self-submission and service to one another. This sets the stage for the proper relationship between Christian wives and husbands. And even if unmarried or single, as Christians we should be familiar with this principle.

The 22nd verse is tightly connected to the 21st because in the Greek it simply says, “Wives to their own husbands, as to the Lord.” The submission of a wife to her husband then, cannot be any less than submission freely chosen out of her reverence for Christ. Indeed, she submits because she is motivated by self-giving love. This submission cannot be imposed upon her or it is not submission in the Christian sense.

Paul appeals to Genesis where woman was created out of man. He says that the husband is the “head” of the wife. In Greek, the word “kephali” or “head” does not always refer to headship as “authority,” but also as “source.” This is the context of these verses. Paul then says that man, being the source of a woman’s being, is charged with

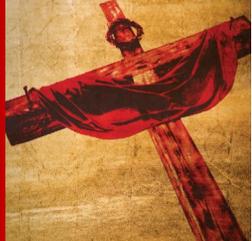
the responsibility for her, especially in a spiritual sense. Men and women were created for each other and they belong together as complementary parts of the whole. As such, they stand before God as equals. Paul is more explicit in Galatians when he states, “. . . there is neither male nor female, for you all are one in Christ Jesus.” Paul also makes an analogy between Christ and His Church. Christ is the Head and the Source of the Church. His headship does involve leadership, but it is never authoritarian or arbitrary; it is as a humble servant seeking the highest and greatest good for the object of His love.

I believe that many women misunderstand the idea of submission and headship because of an incorrect attitude by men. All too many males think of this passage because it seems to be a license for being authoritarian, or an ego trip by unenlightened or unspiritual leadership. These verses cannot support such an imperial or narcissistic attitude.

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**“Love one another as
I have loved you.”**
John 15:12



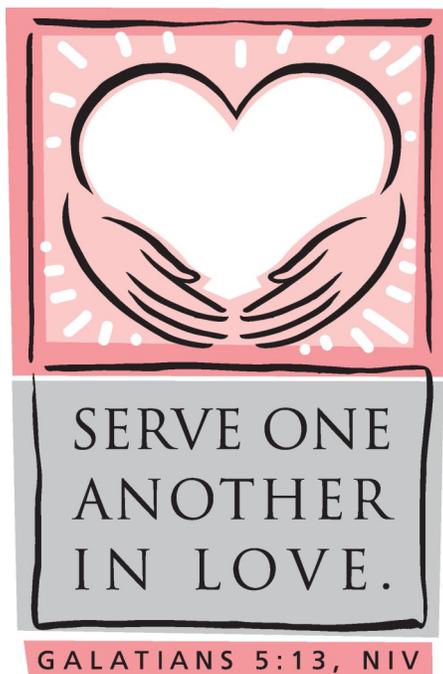


AN EXCERPT FROM
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“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for it, that He might sanctify her ... that she might be holy and without blemish.” If a Christian husband is obedient to Jesus, he will be subject (or submissive) to his wife, and yet maintain his spiritual headship.

How? Very simply he needs to act in his headship like Jesus, who went to the Cross for the Church; or edifying this further, just as “Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her ... a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” A Christian husband must be prepared to go to a cross for his wife in self-sacrifice if she is ever to come to see the joy, the freedom, and the honor that can come through her self-submission for Christ’s sake.

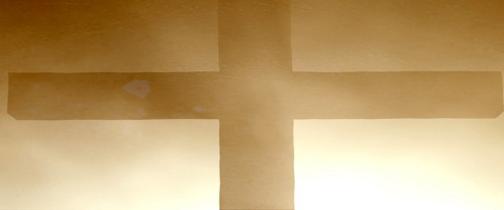
Some women today may interpret this passage as a kind of “put-down” because they had few or no examples among their fathers, brothers, husbands, male friends, or church members who live by this principle. No Christian to my knowledge will see any loss in freedom or personal integrity by being subject or submissive to Jesus Christ. It surely will, however, seem like a loss if a wife is unable to see any reflection in her husband of the sacrificial love offered by our Lord Jesus Christ. With the example of Jesus before him, a man must learn to be faithful, committed, consistent, caring, and self-offering. For it is the husband’s responsibility to see that he assists his wife to achieve a large measure of spiritual perfection which will replicate the relationship between Christ and His Church.



Headship for the Christian man is an awesome responsibility. If the husband fails to establish the kind of environment in which his wife can freely exercise her submission and thereby model the life of Christ Himself, Paul declares that even the Word of God itself will suffer credibility. Paul calls for both men and women to have “unity of spirit.” And I believe the initiative for this unity must begin with Christian men.

A final word about our congregations. Today there are many dedicated women who struggle as single parents. They need faithful men in a congregation who will provide support in their difficult task and to whom they can look for spiritual counsel and Christ-like leadership. Indeed, our teenage daughters without fathers living at home need faithful spiritual models so they can come to know what kind of husband they should have.

“Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ” is the sure pathway to growth in Christian maturity and spiritual freedom.

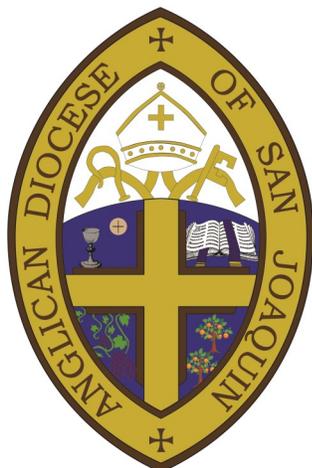


ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

Bishop's Note series--

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Please send these to melody@ctkridgecrest.org.

Thank you!