

**Ascension Sunday**  
**Now That You're Gone**  
(Which Way Did He Go?)

**First Reading** ~ Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, in the psalms had to be fulfilled." Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, "That is why the scriptures say that the Christ (Anointed One) must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations. Beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all of this.

Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high." Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands, blessed the disciples. While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven. The disciples worshipped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They were found in the temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

**Second Reading**

~ adapted from Anne Lamott in *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*

This is part of the mystery: that humanity and human bodies are where we experience transcendence and God, restoration, the inclination to serve those who are suffering. We reach out as we are reached out to. This all looks so ordinary that you might miss it. It's so daily. You don't need special music and a Hollywood production and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. You don't need the Canadian fjords, the Grand Canyon, a newborn baby, although these can be helpful. You don't need to go to Senegal. Immediacy and inspiration can be found in the dairy aisle at Safeway. It probably looks like people saying hello, making eye contact, letting others go first. Ordinary human daily ways, but moving more slowly. It looks like me with a few free minutes, deciding not to fill something in. Instead, I may close my eyes, drop to a quieter plane, or look up into a tree or the sky. Even a moment's transcendence changes us. Everything is different afterward because we deep-dove, were there in downward, inward, higher places.