

# Memorize & Ponder for the Week of May 26-June 2, 2019

## Scripture Lesson for June 2 - Luke 24:36-53 Why Is Jesus' Ascension Important?

Sermon text for next Sun, June 2 – Luke 24:45-48 (NRSV)

**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.**

*From June of 2019 through May of 2020, the worshiping community that gathers weekly in this little space of grace at Brentwood will be exploring the complex, but coherent, dynamics by which the triune God formed and reformed the early churches into their mission of being ambassadors of that God's reconciling love revealed definitively in Jesus Christ.*

*As we did with the Psalms over the previous 12 months, we will employ an ancient tradition in the church, dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century, that involves praying the Scriptures daily. It's called Lectio Divina or holy reading. We practice it, play with it, improvise on it, and be steeped by God's grace in it. We think it will change our lives!*

*We welcome your suggestions and comments on how best to consider more deeply the benefits of following Jesus Christ into the Commonwealth of God.*



## Daily ponderings on the early churches

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us provoke one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together ... (Hebrews 10:23-25a)*

**Our word to ponder this week is *repentance*.**

*Lectio divino* (holy reading)\* invites us to do 5 things as we consider the biblical passage: listen, reflect, see, respond, and rest in what the Spirit is teaching. What are you hearing? What meaning is being formed or reformed for you? What images or metaphors come to mind? What kind of response is the Spirit suggesting? What difference does the final moment of rest in God's love make for you?

We suggest that you read the whole passage at the beginning of the week. In the days following, you might focus on the sermon text chosen by Brian. Read it aloud and listen to your words. Ponder it anew each day. See new dimensions of its message. Pay attention to your attitudes and how the Spirit may be reforming them. And rest in the richness of God's nourishing Word as you grow into the justice, kindness, and humility that delight God.

**Notes for participating in Christ's mission this week:**

**Remember to pray for the faithfulness of Brentwood in its mission this week.**

\* A good introduction to *lectio divina* is Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (Eerdmans, 2009)