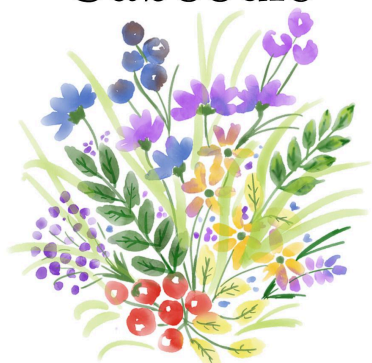


Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

May 17, 2026

Penultimate

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 21:1-7; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11

Today's Big Idea

We reflect on the meanings that radiate out of the reality of the right-hand-of-God-reign of Jesus.

Ascension Sunday

A review of the Redemption phases:

Israel, Jesus on Earth, Jesus at the Right Hand, the Great Capsize

Penultimate Phase

Exaltation of Jesus to His rightful place (the glory from before: **John 17:5**)

Exaltation of humanity to its rightful place

The story of the rise and fall and rise of human dominion

Human dominion: **Genesis 1:26-28**

Human abdication and devil-rule and death: **Genesis 3:6; John 14:30**

Human freedom acquired: **John 17:4**

Human takes on death, breaks its power, steals its keys: **1 Corinthians 15:54; Revelation 1:18**

Human taking back rightful dominion: **Ephesians 1:20-22; Matthew 28:18**

Devil: from throne-usurper to Lion-terrorist: **1 Peter 5:8**

Right Hand Sitting is a Conquest Position

Until the enemies are conquered: **1 Corinthians 15:22**

The battle continues: **1 Peter 5:9**

The Cyrus connection in **Isaiah 45:1-3**

The cosmic victory replicated in millions of "freed-human" stories

Until the wedding feast and new creation: **Revelation 19:7, Revelation 21:1**

Hands and Feet of the King on Terra Firma

Absence is a new kind of presence

Sent Holy Spirit to dwell in us: **John 16:7**

Us elevated and seated with Christ: **Ephesians 1:20-22**

Bearing His authority: **John 20:21-23**

Covered by His protection: **John 17:11**

Filled with a hope that empowers the present: **1 Peter 5:10**

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Isaiah 45:1-7</i>	<i>Psalms 21:1-7</i>	<i>1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11</i>	<i>John 17:1-11</i>
<p>45 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: 2 I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, 6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.</p>	<p>1 In your strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and in your help how greatly he exults! 2 You have given him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. 3 For you meet him with rich blessings; you set a crown of fine gold on his head. 4 He asked you for life; you gave it to him—length of days forever and ever. 5 His glory is great through your help; splendor and majesty you bestow on him. 6 You bestow on him blessings forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence. 7 For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.</p>	<p>12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. 15 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 16 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 17 Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 18 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 19 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 20 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern? May 24, 2026 - Pentecost Sunday: Numbers

11:11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-35; 1 Cor 12:3-13; John 7:37-39