



## Where Are You Looking?

**A**re we, like the disciples, looking in the wrong direction? As they looked up to heaven, they probably realized what they had lost. Jesus was no longer in their midst. But then, the Easter stories all tell us that they never really understood his risen presence with them. And so they were asked: “Why are you standing here looking at the sky?” (Acts 1:11).

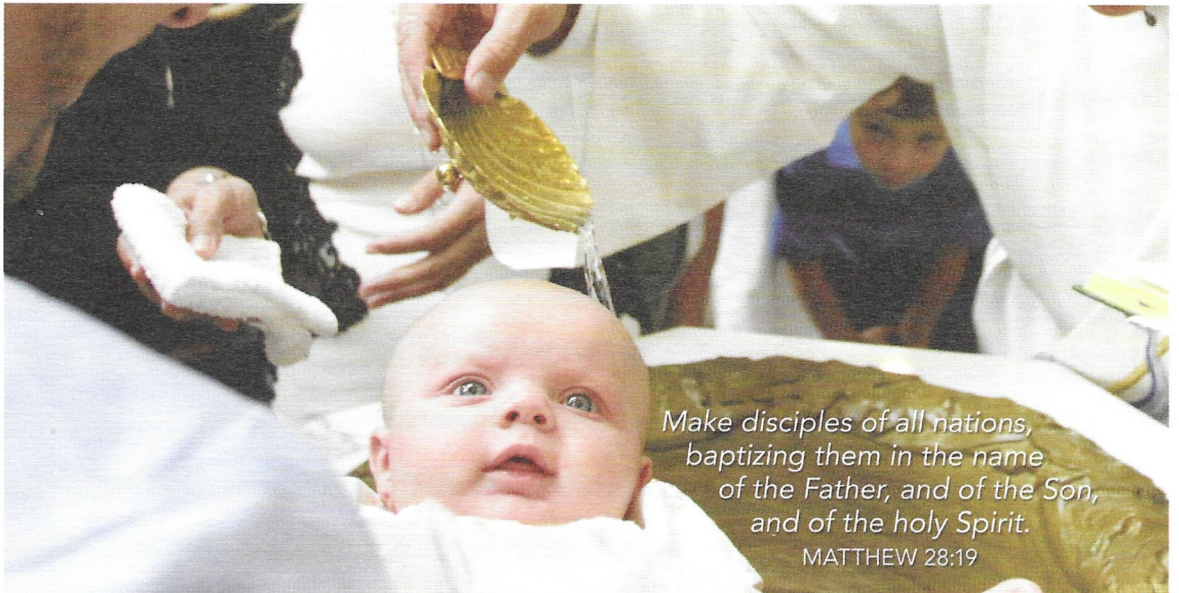
Are we also looking up to heaven when we should be looking out to the world? Of course, it is right that we reflect on Jesus’ ascension. However, today’s understanding of the universe helps us realize that the biblical account of Jesus’ ascension into heaven may be a way of saying that he is glorified with God. As Paul says, he has been granted the place of honor at God’s right hand, “far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion” with “all things beneath his feet” (Ephesians 1:21–22). Jesus, now with God, radiates the full splendor of his resurrection.

We must turn to the Gospel passage to get the fullness of the story of the ascension. Jesus did not say: “Watch what is going to happen.” Instead he told them to go out: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We might know these words so well that we miss their forcefulness. In effect, Jesus is telling them: go out to the whole world and tell them what you have seen and heard. I did what it was for me to do; now it is up to you to do the rest. Don’t worry, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). Look where you’re going, not where I went.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *In what ways have other people touched you with the mystery of the risen Jesus?*
- ★ *In what ways do you bring the reality of Jesus to people in your life?*



*Make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name  
of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the holy Spirit.*

MATTHEW 28:19