

Ascension Sunday, May 12, 2024

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

At the end of the day, my most important job is still mom-in-chief.

—Michelle Obama

Today is Mother's Day. Have you noticed how the word "mother" is used as an adjective to describe a place of safety or refuge? Let me give you some examples.

A long time ago, three space shuttle astronauts walked into space (the first three-person spacewalk ever) and caught with their gloved hands a 4 ½ ton satellite spinning out of control at the wrong altitude.

What enabled the astronauts to risk everything to restore the proper altitude to the craft were "foot restraints" that anchored them to the *mother* craft.

This story has a lesson for all of us. First, foot restraints might be a good thing for those of us who so frequently put our feet in our mouths.

Second, although we might not have any trouble with our altitude, we may have difficulty with our attitude. This may require us to take a "spacewalk" with God to get our attitude corrected and in the right spiritual orbit.

When we do, however, our feet must be firmly anchored to the Word of God and the core values of our faith. The "*mother ship*" represents the Word. If our feet are not connected in some way, or planted in, the Word, we may develop attitudes that work against, not for, God's work in the world.

So, you can see that "mother" is a word that speaks of safety and security. When we were little, we ran to our mothers and hid behind her skirts. Someone who is "motherly" is someone who protects and comforts. There are den mothers and motherhouses and mother hens. Although Mother Nature can be harsh, generally, we are comforted when we are in her presence. In computer science, everything starts and ends with the motherboard. We are most relaxed when speaking our mother tongue. And a motherlode is a source of blessing — if you've found the motherlode, you have struck it rich.

Let's thank God for moms everywhere!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, sometimes we wander off into space, doing our own thing. We should be walking with you. Help us to stay anchored to our faith so that we may stay centered in your will. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Luke 18-21
- Monday:** 1 Samuel 21-24
- Tuesday:** 1 Samuel 25-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Samuel 29-31
- Thursday:** 2 Samuel 1-4
- Friday:** 2 Samuel 5-8
- Saturday:** Psalms 46-48

Verse to Remember

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.”

—Psalm 46:1-2



A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE!

Today is Mother’s Day. Every mother has her favorite flower. For many, the most beautiful flower is the rose. Below is a list of flower varieties of the rose bush. See if you can find them hidden in the Word Search. They can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward and forward.

H E Q A Y U P Y L P Y K P Y L
 S A U I C R D R Z R G H H R X
 A P I J I P R R R C H E R R Y
 N R N L I O F E U Q N I C E O
 I I C L X R B B B N U F H B J
 A C E O N K X P C W F G O W R
 T O R G C M E S O R A L D E M
 N T N A L P P A O S H R Y D H
 U C L N B A K R W A Q N T A C
 O B S B P A N E W N O L L S Q
 M A F E E W P T O M K M O X M
 W O A R A X H P I L O Q U A T
 Z C I R R O L R L N S W X L G
 H P K Y R C G F D E E G O R P
 S Z P N F A E L B M A R B E P

- Agrimony
- Almond
- Apricot
- Blackberry
- Bramble
- Cherry
- Cinquefoil
- Crab apple
- Dewberry
- Hawthorn
- Loganberry
- Loquat
- Medlar
- Mountain ash
- Peach
- Plum
- Quince
- Raspberry
- Sloe
- Soap plant
- Spirea
- Strawberry