

He led captivity captive

By [Carol Zaleski](#)

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*What's the gospel in seven words? We asked theologians, pastors and others both to answer this question and to expand on this in a few sentences. To see all the responses together as they're posted, bookmark [this page](#). Add your own version [here](#). --Ed.*

He led captivity captive.

Among Gospel epitomes I especially love the Jesus prayer, the Agnus Dei and "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive"--the good news as I first heard it from Paul (Ephesians 4:8) and Christ's Jubilee proclamation (Luke 4:18). Christ ascended the cross, descended to the dead and ascended to heaven to restore us to the Father. He has broken our fetters; it remains for us to shake them off and enlist in the service of self-giving love.