

JUNE 2, 2019  
ASCENSION OF  
THE LORD



*Jesus' ascension sends us out.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Reflect on these Bible readings as part of your daily devotions.

Sunday	Luke 24:44-53	The Ascension of Jesus
Monday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in prison
Tuesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Christ is coming soon
Wednesday	Psalms 47	God rules the nations
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples
Saturday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer for the people
Sunday	John 14:8-17, 25-27	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God of suffering and glory, help us to see in the cross our calling to witness to your saving work in our daily lives. In Jesus' name. amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen. (Traditional German table prayer)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the ascended Lord Jesus give you power from on high. May God bless you and fill you with joy.



JUNE 2, 2019

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it mean to be a follower?
- What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?
- In Acts 1, the apostles were to wait for the Holy Spirit to give them power and direction for the future of the church. How do you wait for the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Acts 1:1-11.

Jesus' ascension is about his status and power as the one seated at the right hand of God (Ephesians 1:20). Jesus is no longer present on earth as before. He is now present through the Holy Spirit that strengthens the apostles. They are not to look up to heaven and wonder about Jesus' return. They now have their marching orders to go out into the world (v. 8), but not until they have been clothed with power from the Holy Spirit (vv. 4-5). Like the Jews of their day, the apostles thought that the role of the Messiah was to return power and glory to the kingdom of Israel (v. 6), but now the power and glory of God is to be seen in the work of the suffering Christ who sends them out into the world to be witnesses. Jesus' power and reign now resides in his followers, the body of Christ, the church. God is now active in the lives of believers who worship and wait for God's guidance. The role of the church is to be responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God will direct the work of the church. How does your local community of faith wait for God's guidance? How do you wait for God's guidance?

*Pray:* **Come Holy Spirit, help us to see in Jesus' suffering the power of God at work that guides us and sends us out as witnesses to the ends of the earth. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Psalms 47:2 tells us: "For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth." Caring for God's creation honors God's work and reign over all the earth. Show your care this week by picking up litter and trash around your home, congregation, nearby road edges, or a park.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Celebrate this day with a tradition of serving Ascension Day cookies. Make normal sugar cookies. After they have cooled, spread sky blue icing on them and place miniature marshmallows on top of each. As you serve them, explain that the cookies symbolize the sky and the clouds that Jesus ascended into. The point of Jesus' ascension is that he gives his disciples—including us—a mission to be his witnesses. He says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).