

MAY 13, 2021
ASCENSION OF
OUR LORD



God's promise to empower the church.

ASCENSION DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ascension Day observance.

Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	The ascension of Jesus
	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is ascended
	Psalms 47	God rules the nations
	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer for the church

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASCENSION DAY

And see, I [Jesus] am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Luke 24:49 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ascension Day:

Almighty God, keep us open to your presence and guide us into the world to live as your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you praise with loud songs of joy for all our days. Amen.
(Psalm 47:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of Christ strengthen you and lead you each day in peace.



MAY 13, 2021

HYMN FOR ASCENSION DAY

Lord of the Dance



ASCENSION DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When you get up each day, how do you decide what you will do that day?
- Our lives are filled with many possibilities for action and reflection. How does the Holy Spirit help you decide what is important for your daily life?
- Are you attentive to God's presence in your life? If so, how?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:44-53.

The ascension of Jesus is part of our creedal faith, but not given a lot of attention in the teaching of the church. Is it about Jesus' power and authority? Is it about the coming of the Spirit to continue Jesus' work in daily life? Is it about the mission of the church? Yes, all of that is true—with an emphasis on the continuation of God's presence and promise to empower the church. What is so fascinating about the end of the Gospel of Luke is that it seems to be missing an ending. The disciples are in the temple worshipping and blessing God, period! That's it. No clear mission statement, just worshipping and waiting. That presents an important point linked to the ascension. Jesus now rules with power given to the church, the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:23). We as the church now live by worshipping and waiting to be led by God's power. We as the body of Christ follow Jesus into the world by waiting and being attentive to God's leading, not ours. As you await Christ's coming again, how may God's presence in your life lead you each day?

Pray: **Come Holy Spirit; come Lord Jesus. May we as your church listen to your leading for our lives and your work of grace and mercy. Amen.**

SERVICE

Recall how you are strengthened and led by the power of Jesus, the one who is above all rule and authority on earth (Ephesians 1:21). Who would you like to bless with the power of God's love in Christ? Think of some creative ways to show God's love to that person today.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

At his Ascension, Jesus was "lifted up" into heaven. We sometimes talk about being "lifted up" emotionally by experiences we have in life. The encouragement of others is uplifting for us. Think or talk about people who have encouraged you or brought you joy. In celebration of Jesus' ascension, make and decorate a cloud shaped card. Write a prayer of thanks to God inside the card, place it next to your bed, and say the prayer tonight.

