

MAY 28, 2017
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus' ascension is our call to be witnesses in the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Jesus is taken to heaven
Tuesday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Keep the unity of the Spirit
Thursday	1 Peter 3:8-12	Live in harmony
Friday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Paul prays for the Ephesians
Saturday	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit comes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.” Acts 1:8 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Glorious and ascended Lord, give us your Holy Spirit so that we can be your faithful witnesses in all the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for loving us, feeding us, and caring for us. Your praises we shout, and your name we bless. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God make you complete, steady, strong, and firm as you witness to Christ in the world. (1 Peter 5:10)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Rise, Shine, You People!



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What do you like to talk about to your family and friends?
- It's easy to talk about sports, the weather, and even a favorite politician. What makes it difficult to talk about Jesus?
- Tell about a time you have had a faith conversation about Jesus with someone. What was it like?

DEVOTIONS



Before Jesus was arrested, he prayed especially for his disciples, his closest friends during his time on earth (John 17:6-11). He prayed that God would protect them, and that they would be united. In today's world it is especially important that the church emphasize what unites us in our witness of Jesus to the world instead of what divides us. Be open to learn from Christians not from your own tradition. Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in your community as well as across the globe, especially for those who are persecuted for their faith.

SERVICE



It is often forgotten that many Christians around the globe suffer for their faith, especially in parts of Africa and the Middle East. Pray for those who suffer and advocate to your politicians for just actions in the world. Consider a financial contribution to church efforts that support Christians who experience persecution.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Ascension Day is preparation for Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost are referred to as the *novena* (Latin for nine) and is used as a time to join Christians in prayer as the church awaits the giving of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Peter 5:7 it reads, “God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him.” From now until next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, name the things you worry about then pray, “Come, Holy Spirit, come.”



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