

MAY 26, 2022
ASCENSION OF
OUR LORD



Disciples are given power from on high.

ASCENSION DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASCENSION DAY

"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 Ascension Day:

Almighty God, we thank you for bringing us your Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Help us to be witnesses of God's love in our lives as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you hope.



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HYMN FOR ASCENSION DAY

*Lord, You Give the Great
Commission*



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:

- If you had the power to do anything, what would you want to do?
- How have you been empowered by God's love to care for others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Acts 1:1-11.

Although Ascension Day is a significant festival day in the church year, it is strikingly overlooked in our telling of the good news. It's part of our creeds, but not part of our imagination as essential to the Christian faith. The Ascension is not about Jesus moving away from us but, rather, about leading us forward. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to bear God's redeeming presence through the one who suffered, died, and rose again. In a world where it is so common for people and nations to dominate and control others, the church can too easily—as the disciples did—turn Jesus' resurrection into a triumph that will now "*restore the kingdom of Israel*" (v. 6) and miss a larger task. Instead, Jesus' followers are sent out as Jesus' witnesses to forgive and love in his name. This is a global ministry that begins in "*Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,*" and goes "*to the ends of the earth*" (v. 8).

Discuss: How does the Holy Spirit empower you to be Jesus' witnesses of forgiveness and love in the world today?

Pray: **Ascended Lord, may your death and resurrection empower us through the Holy Spirit to go out to witness to your rule of forgiveness, love, and new life. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Ascension Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, how will you be a witness to God's presence in the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Celebrate Ascension Day by making cookies. Make sugar cookies and add blue frosting for the sky and mini marshmallows for the clouds. As you make and eat the cookies talk about Jesus' ascension and what it means that Jesus wants us to be witnesses of love and forgiveness to everyone we meet. End your time by praying: **Come Holy Spirit, help us to be witnesses of your love and to extend forgiveness to all. In Jesus name, amen.**

