

Christ's reign reaches all people.

ASCENSION DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

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

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 and living God, we thank you for bringing all the people of the earth under your reign that all may know of your steadfast love and faithfulness in Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, you who rule over all the world, we praise you for your creative work that gives us food from the earth; thank you for the hands that provided it. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be given a spirit of wisdom to know our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:17)



MAY 9, 2024

HYMN FOR ASCENSION DAY

Lord, You Give the Great Commission ′ taking faitl hom

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:

- Tell or think about the furthest city, state, or country you have traveled to.
- What is it like to meet new people and know they are God's people, no matter how different they are from you?

DEVOTIONS 🔌



Psalm 47 is called an enthronement psalm. It is a psalm that celebrates God's reign over all the earth. Verse 9 is striking because it states that all nations and the rulers of all nations are the people of Abraham. It announces that all people are God's people. Ascension Day recognizes that the message of Jesus Christ is to go out to all the world. No people are to be left out. Jesus' ascension points to the power of God that is not just for the disciples, but a power intended to bless all people, all nations, just as Psalm 47 states. This psalm and the Ascension Day message direct the people of the church to see others in a new light, the light that is to shine on all people with grace and mercy for repentance and forgiveness. In a world that can divide people into different and opposing groups, Ascension Day reminds us of God's power to bring us together as one people, a people who receive the power of the risen Christ.

Discuss: How does the message of the ascension of Jesus help you to see others in a new way? *Pray:* Everlasting God, for your power that knows no end and that seeks us out with your love, help us to show your love to others through Christ Jesus our risen and ascended Savior. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Ascension Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you reach out to someone who is different than yourself with the love of God in Christ?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Luke 24:50-53, we learn that Jesus led the disciples to a town named Bethany and then *'lifting up his hands and blessed them'*. As he blessed the disciples, he ascended to heaven. Close your eyes and picture the disciples being blessed and then Jesus rising to the sky. After this, the disciples felt great joy. Take a moment to talk about what that great joy means to you today.

Bless one another: May the ascended Lord Jesus give you power from heaven. May he bless you and fill you with joy.

