

MAY 17, 2015
ASCENSION OF
THE LORD

taking+ faith home

Jesus has gone to heaven to rule as King over all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Luke 24:44-53	Jesus taken up into heaven
Monday	Psalms 68:4	Sing to God
Tuesday	Mark 16:9-19	Jesus returns to God's right hand
Wednesday	Hebrews 9:24-28	Christ entered heaven itself
Thursday	1 Peter 3:18-22	Christ has gone into heaven
Friday	Colossians 3:1-10	Christ seated above
Saturday	Psalms 93	The Lord is awesome
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven. There Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers. He rules over all beings in this world and will rule in the future world as well. Ephesians 1:20-21 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Ascended Lord Jesus, please lift up your hands and bless us. Amen. (Luke 24:50)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, ascended above, thank you for your gifts of love. For food and home and all our days, we offer up our prayers of praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the ascended Lord Jesus give you power from heaven. May he bless you and fill you with joy. Amen. (Luke 24:49,51-52)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you said goodbye to someone.
- Imagine being present when Jesus ascended into heaven. Describe what you think might have taken place.
- The Bible tells us that Jesus has gone into heaven to rule over all (Ephesians 1:20-21). What does that mean for your life, for the world, for the future?

DEVOTIONS

Before Jesus ascended into heaven we are told that he *"lifted up his hands and blessed them."* As part of your household devotional times this week, bless one another using this week's *Taking Faith Home* "Blessing to Give." Place your hands on one another's shoulders or heads as you say the words of blessing.

SERVICE

At his Ascension, Jesus was "lifted up" into heaven. We sometimes talk about being "lifted up" emotionally by experiences we have in life. For instance, the encouragement of others is uplifting for us. Share about people who have encouraged you or brought you joy. In celebration of Jesus' ascension, make and decorate cloud shaped cards to send them. Say a prayer of thanks for the ways they have helped or served you. Talk together also about people you know who may need some particular help or encouragement at this time. Discuss ways in which you can support them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Arrange for some balloons to be filled with helium at a local party shop. Think of as many words as you can to complete this sentence: *"Jesus fills us with _____."* Write these sentences onto the balloons with a permanent marker. Release them in the rooms of your home in celebration of Jesus' ascension. If you do not have access to helium gas, cut up white poster board into cloud shapes and hang these up around your home.



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