

Ascension Sunday 2025

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

1. What do think the significance is of Jesus blessing as he ascends? What is the blessing *for*?
2. Do you find the reaction of the disciples to the Ascension surprising? Would you react the same they did if Jesus left your presence?
3. Why do you think the disciples asked to *wait* before being clothed with power from in high?

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

4. What do you think it means for Jesus to be at God's right hand?
5. Do you find it surprising that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is also in us? What might that power look like in daily life?

6. Activity: The Ascension of Jesus to a position of authority and power is closely related to his ability to send down the blessings of the Holy Spirit. Draw a little figure representing you, and another (or a symbol) above it representing Christ. Draw an arrow going up and an arrow coming down. Next to the arrow going up, write down the things you want to offer to the ascended Christ. Then, next to the arrow pointing down, write the things that you like to receive from Christ through the Holy Spirit.