

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 passage.

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	John 3:31-36	The Son and the Father
Tuesday	John 8:21-30	Jesus speaks of going to the Father
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 17:1-9	O God, hear my prayer
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit comes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Holy Father, I am no longer in the world. I am coming to you, but my followers are still in the world. So keep them safe by the power of the name that you have given me. Then they will be one with each other, just as you and I are one.

John 17:11 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Father in heaven, please keep us safe today with the power that belongs to your name. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and our feast of Easter joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God always keep you safe. May God keep your faith in Jesus strong, and give you eternal life. Amen

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss on your household or small group:

- What makes you anxious or worried? What calms you down?
- The apostle Peter encourages us not to be too proud to give our worries to God, because he cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Think of a time when you gave your worries to God.
- What worries or concerns can you give over to God now?

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 his Heavenly Father would protect them, and that they would be united. In your home devotional times this week, give special focus to praying for your Christian friends. Contact them by phone or email to inquire about their prayer needs, and include these in your household prayer times.

SERVICE:

Do you know someone who is going through a difficult period? Make up a card to send them, including the words of 1 Peter 5:7 ("Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you"). Sign the card as a household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Last Thursday (2 June) was Ascension Day, a day marking the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection at Easter as well as his bodily ascension into heaven. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. The book of Acts (1:12) suggests that Jesus' ascension took place from Mt. Olivet, located northeast of the town of Bethany.

Plan a trip (by car or foot) to a "high place" in your area. While there, discuss what it might have been like to see Jesus ascend into heaven and what it might be like when he returns at the end of time. Take time to notice the clouds and see what shapes you can find (there is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God). Say these words aloud: "Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"