

Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23 or
Ephesians 4:1-13
Mark 16:15-20

Monday May 17

Acts 19:1-8
Ps 68:2-7ab
John 16:29-33

Tuesday May 18

Acts 20:17-27
Ps 68:10-11,20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday May 19

Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30,33-36
John 17:11b-19

Thursday May 20

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11
John 17:20-26

Friday May 21

Acts 25:13b-21
Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20
John 21:15-19

Saturday May 22

Acts 28:16-20,30-31
Ps 11:4,5,7
John 21:20-25

Sometimes we find ourselves in the same posture as the disciples in Acts 1:1-11, looking up at the sky, staring at nothing, waiting for Jesus to come back and rescue this world from evil.

Our world needs the Second Coming of Christ—and now! What's the delay? Ahhh, but he's told us not to wait but to go forth and spread the Good News. He told us to take what he's given us and use it to continue the works of his ministry.

Why do we stare at the empty sky? Because we feel inadequate.

Parents know this feeling. After giving birth or adopting a child, we have the awesome task of raising this person into a faith-filled, emotionally healthy adult.

Graduates know this feeling. After completing college or a Lay Ministry training program or ordination or final vows, we stand on the threshold of

working for the Lord and wonder: Will I be effective and successful? Will I like it? Or will I be sent where I'd rather not go?

Those who are grieving know this feeling. After a loved one is taken home to the Lord or a friend is lost in a failed relationship, our lives change drastically. It feels like it shouldn't have. How can we recover from the emptiness, which by its very nature forces our attention onto ourselves and our unmet needs, so that we become full of service to others?



Every change in our lives is a commissioning. Every loss is the beginning of a new calling. Every experience is training for a work of God's kingdom that the Lord wants to accomplish through us.

Why are you standing there looking at the sky? Jesus has been your teacher and your guide: Although you cannot see what he's doing now, he has not abandoned you. He is fulfilling his promise: "You will receive power from the Holy Spirit, and you will be my witness throughout the earth." Indeed, you were given that Holy Spirit in baptism, and it is this Spirit of God that empowers you to continue the ministry of Jesus using your particular gifts and talents and experiences.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What thresholds or new beginnings are you facing?
2. How are these opportunities for the continuation of the ministry of Jesus?
3. In what ways are you doing the works of Jesus?
4. Which parish ministries could use your gifts and talents?
5. How do you rely on the Holy Spirit to get it done?