



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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May 11-17, 2026

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Sermon Title: "A New Reality" by Rev. Stephen Coleman

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflection:

1. Do you believe it is good news or bad news that Jesus ascended into heaven to be with God?
2. How do we move from being an admirer of Jesus to being true followers of Jesus?
3. How has the Holy Spirit gifted you to be a witness to Christ in the world?

Monday, May 11: Read Luke 24:44-53

This Sunday, we celebrate Ascension Sunday, when the risen Christ leaves earth to join the Father in Heaven. During the season of Easter, we have been celebrating what the resurrection means to us and our world; celebrating the gifts freely given by our Lord and Savior. We've seen the disciples go from despair to disbelief to joy as Jesus returned to them, walked with them, broke bread with them, and taught them. Now Jesus seems to be leaving them again – just when they got him back. Many of our readings this week seem to have a feeling of limbo, where the disciples, and perhaps us, are faced with the reality of waiting – waiting for Christ's return and waiting to figure out what we are supposed to do in the meantime. Like the disciples, we wish Jesus could just stay with us here, and our own self-doubt feels unprepared to be left. But as we will explore this week and in Stephen's sermon this Sunday, we are neither being left alone nor being left unprepared. Like the disciples, we have been witnesses to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and while Jesus has left one place, it is so he can be everywhere.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you imagine the disciples were thinking and feeling when Jesus left them to ascend to heaven.*

Tuesday, May 12: Read Acts 1:1-5

The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are attributed to the same author, and though they are separated in our canon by the Gospel of John, they can be read as one book, smoothly flowing together. The Gospel of Luke is all about the birth, life, teaching, preaching, healing, death, and resurrection of Christ. The book of Acts is all about the apostles Peter, Paul, James, and John, the birth of the church, and the spread of Christianity to the ends of the earth. The story of the ascension of Jesus is the bridge that links these two stories together. Today's reading picks up from yesterday's, reminding us of all that has transpired in the days and weeks preceding the ascension. It also reminds us of "all that Jesus began to do and to teach." This is our foundation upon which we can build our life in this "in between time" between Jesus ascending and returning. Where will we start?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Reflect on how you would spend today if you fully embraced the belief that Jesus is returning to earth at any time. What is one thing you could start, stop, or change?*

Wednesday, May 13: Read Acts 1:6-14

The disciples were often no better at waiting than we are. It's tempting to laugh at the first verse in today's reading, "Lord, are you going at this time to restore the kingdom of Israel?" Just as the people waving palm branches upon Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey, the disciples have an immediate, earthly vision of Jesus's mission and purpose. Jesus understands his purpose is much greater, much wider, and much more eternal, as is ours. What greater purpose and power might we be able to embrace if we are willing to wait in faith instead of acting in the moment?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Describe a time when waiting for the unknown and unseen instead of acting on the immediate and tangible paid off. What did you learn? What do you still need to learn?*

Thursday, May 14: Read John 17:1-11

We turn back in the Bible and back in the chronology of Jesus's life on earth to this passage in John where Jesus teaches us how to wait in faith – not just for the good things, but for the difficult things ahead. Jesus is facing the unimaginable – torture, crucifixion, and a long death on the cross – yet he remains focused on his love of the Father and his love for his disciples and the world. Jesus shows us that every moment of his life has been for these things.

- **Discipleship and Study Opportunity:** *Read the entire 17th chapter in the gospel of John. See how Jesus also prays for us.*

Friday, May 15: Read Psalm 47

Today's psalm is a celebration of the almighty power of God, who "has ascended" and "reigns over the nations...seated on his holy throne." The psalmist finds comfort, joy, and assurance in God who reigns from above, able to be everywhere, all knowing, all seeing, and all powerful. This is what we celebrate in the ascension of Jesus - a savior who has never left us and has both walked with us on earth and is seated at the mighty throne, lord over all. What wondrous power is this? What incredible gift are we given to call this person our savior, friend, counselor, rabbi, and God?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Put today's psalm in your own words.*

Saturday, May 16: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 47:5-6

"God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises."

Sunday, May 17: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and most merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have disregarded your Word and sacraments. Forgive us, O Lord. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things, that being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, and from henceforth may ever walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.