

## Easter 7 Ascension Sunday Devotional 2020

*Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”*

**Luke 24: 50-52**



**The Ascension of our Lord** was celebrated this past Thursday, 40 days after the Resurrection of our Lord. The Acts of the Apostles lesson for the seventh Sunday of Easter share the Ascension experience, and is basically the same lesson that comes to us from Luke's Gospel.

The ascension is a strange occurrence by our standards. Jesus, risen from the dead, spends much time with his disciples. Then, he bids them farewell and ascends to heaven. In Acts, Jesus is asked by his disciples *“Lord, is it time when you restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

Is this now at last the time when you will fulfill the messianic expectations, is it time?

We may be asking a similar question, but not in regard to the messianic expectations, but more the expectations of when we can return to in-person worship. We are course not there yet, but we are thinking about, and planning for it...and was the week progress we will share that with you through our e-zine and web site.

In our lessons for this Sunday, Jesus counsels his followers to be patient, promises them that he will give to them the same power he has. Then he ascends. In a way, this episode is an answer to the apostles' questions. In this episode, Acts opens with Jesus leaving, ascending to heaven to assume godly rule. Before he ascends, Jesus bestows power on his followers, the power of the spirit of truth and of unity in the spirit.

The scriptures will portray the power of witnessing, the apostles acting with some of the same authority that characterized the work of Jesus. His disciples now move into the world doing his work in his absence. Of course, Jesus is not absent, but he is now present in a very different way, as the church, in the form of the Holy Spirit, in the teaching and activity of the church.

Look up! Look in! Look out!

We are witnesses to the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus this day!

In Christ Service,  
Pastor Dave