

05-12-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“When Jesus withdraws from his followers and ascends into heaven, he becomes present in another sense—present on earth through our lives, present through and in us. Christ gives his body through the church...After the ascension, we are the body of Jesus.”

-Isaac S. Villegas



Acts 1:1-11 ✝ Ephesians 1:15-23

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean for you to be a witness for Jesus throughout the week? How might God be calling you to share Christ’s message with others? How is Jesus present in and through you as you interact with family, friends, coworkers, as well as with strangers? With what specific means (abilities, opportunities) has God provided you to carry out the task of being a witness? What will help open new channels for God to work within and through you?

- How is the knowledge of the Ascension significant for you as a Christian today? How does the reality of the Ascended Christ affect your understanding of who Jesus is? How does it impact your daily walk of discipleship? When and how have you known yourself empowered from on high? Where are you currently longing for the Spirit’s power in your life? In the life of our congregation?

- What does it mean for us as a congregation to be the body of Christ? How do our various ministries and programs enable Jesus to speak to and act in the surrounding community? How can we discern next steps in our role in carrying out Jesus’ mission and ministry? How do we achieve balance between spiritual discipline and active outreach, between acts of piety and acts of mercy?

Daily Household Prayer

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of Jesus rising to the heavens and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do here and now. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you joyfully in this world all our days. Amen.