

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

*God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)*

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Luke 16:19-31

[St. Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did & taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days & speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; & you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea & Samaria, & to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, & a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going & they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

- How does v5 connect with *Acts 2:17 & Matthew 3:11*?
- How does v6 connect with *John 12:12-16 & Luke 19:28-40* as well as *John 18:28-38 & Luke 23:1-16*. What about *Matthew 24:1-51*?

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

- The Bible is very clear that speculation about Jesus' return is unhelpful at best & hopeless at worst. How does (simple) confidence that God will fulfill his promise of Jesus' return give you resilient hope? *See Romans 8:18-30*
- Chiliasm, or millennialism, millenarianism, is the (especially American) belief that a future, pre-Judgment Day age will come in which Christians will establish God's Kingdom literally on earth. It's entirely a deception of the anti-Christ. What do we say in the Creeds to guard against such foolish evil? *See Small & Large Catechisms: Apostles' Creed, available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- Jesus says, "The poor you will always have with you" (*Matthew 26:11; Mark 14:7; John 12:8*). He also says, "Blessed are the poor/poor in spirit" (*Matthew 5:3; Luke 6:20*). How do these help you interpret vv6-8 & 11? What poverties of heart, mind, body, & soul, do you see present in your congregation's neighborhood? How can you help your congregation address such poverty in a serious way, that builds confidence in God & his promises?
- Consider King David once his kingdom is established (& he didn't have to go & fight anymore) in *2 Samuel 11*. How does his bad example warn us against establishing our own perfectionist "kingdoms" & attempts at utopia? How does *Matthew 28:19-20* keep us properly oriented?

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Festival of Our Lord's Ascension

05.12.24

Series: Abide

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*God makes his abode with us*

Connected Life

*The Spirit connects us with Jesus & others*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** While staying with them, [Jesus] ordered [the Apostles] not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father [baptism with the Holy Spirit]. (v4)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**Go & make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;**

**I am with you always, to the end of the age. (*Matthew 28:19, 20*)**

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**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. The Bible is very clear that speculation about Jesus' return is unhelpful at best & hopeless at worst. How does (simple) confidence that God will fulfill his promise of Jesus' return give you resilient hope? *See Romans 8:18-30*
4. Chiliasm, or millennialism, millenarianism, is the (especially American) belief that a future, pre-Judgment Day age will come in which Christians will establish God's Kingdom literally on earth. It's entirely a deception of the anti-Christ. What do we say in the Creeds to guard against such foolish evil? *See Small & Large Catechisms: Apostles' Creed, available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*

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