

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

*God has gone up with a shout. (v5)*

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 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven & those with them,] <sup>45</sup>“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, & the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer & to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance & forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them & was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, & returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. First, note the connection between *Luke 24:44-53* & *Acts 1:1-11*. Now look at *Acts 1:15-26* & *2:4, 14-40*. How did St. Peter (& the other disciples, cf. *Acts 1:15*) acquire this knowledge? See esp. *Acts 1:3*; also *Luke 9:22, 44, 17:25, 18:31-33*; *1 Corinthians 2:2, 11:23*
2. Jesus is sure to include repentance in his command for proclamation. How come? See *Deuteronomy 30:1-20*; *1 Kings 8:44-53* (cf. *2 Chronicles 6:36-40*); *Psalms 7:12, 78:34*; *Isaiah 55:6-7*; *Jeremiah 3:22*; *Ezekiel 18:19-32, 33:7-11 (12-20)*; *Daniel 9:13*; *Joel 2:11-13*; *Jonah 3:1-10*; *Matthew 3:1-12, 4:17, 12:41*; *Mark 1:2-5, 15, 6:7-13*; *Luke 3:3-18, 5:32, 13:1-9, 15:7, 10, 17:3-4*; *Romans 3:23, 11:23*; *Galatians 3:22*; *1 Timothy 2:4, 25*; *2 Peter 3:9*

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

3. Lutheran professor Walter Sundberg argues that the heart of worship is the call to repentance & the promise of forgiveness, rather than praise & thanksgiving. (*Note: he doesn't deny praise & thanksgiving.*) How do you see his claim in action in worship? Find examples beyond the brief rite of public, corporate confession & forgiveness. Take note of what's included in the absolution each week at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hallettsville, TX (“to you- who believe & repent”). Review the article “Law & Gospel” p.xxxi, [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) (Concordia Publishing House, 2009) & on [Wikipedia](#), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law\\_and\\_Gospel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_and_Gospel)
4. How does this constant application of repentance & forgiveness, Law & Gospel, keep your faith & beliefs grounded in traditional, orthodox, biblical Christianity (regardless of how you feel, or feel about it)?

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

5. Building on #3 & #4...witnesses saw/experienced something AND tell others about it. What have you seen/experienced with Jesus that you can (show &) tell others about? Who in your everyday life needs to hear your “witness”? In your immediate family? *PS you already received the power from on high of the Holy Spirit in your baptism.*
6. Someone new to traditional, biblical, orthodox, Lutheran worship asks you to explain the emphasis on repentance & forgiveness instead of upbeat, emotional praise. How do you answer?

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Festival of Our Lord's Ascension  
Series: Thrive on the Vine

05.16.21  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Proof Mark  
*Showing & telling about life on the vine*  
-Notes-

KEY VERSE: You are witnesses of these things. (v48)

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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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