

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

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

Revelation 22:12-17, 20-21

Luke 24:44-53

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens & in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us & our prayers for all the world, & in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Revelation 22:12-17, 20-21

<sup>12</sup>See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha & the Omega, the first & the last, the beginning & the end." <sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life & may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup>Outside are the dogs & sorcerers & fornicators & murderers & idolaters, & everyone who loves & practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup>It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root & the descendant of David, the bright morning star." <sup>17</sup>The Spirit & the bride say, "Come." & let everyone who hears say, "Come." & let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." <sup>20</sup>The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

## LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. What's the water of life? Remember the Bible takes place in a land surrounded by deserts. *See Genesis 2:4-10; Isaiah 12:3, 55:1-3, 11; Ezekiel 47:1-12; John 4:14, 7:37, 19:34; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 5:5-7; Revelation 21:6, 22:1; Small Catechism: Holy Baptism;* don't forget to check surrounding verse for more context.
2. Theologians speak of different modes of Jesus' real presence: historical (his annunciation to his ascension); sacramental (i.e., Holy Communion); & mystical (baptized Body of Christ). How does his ascension help explain each one? Hints: Where did his resurrected historical body go? Is "the right hand of the Father" an actual physical place limited to the laws our universe of time & space? *See Formula of Concord: Epitome VIII (SC, FC, AC available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org))*

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

3. First, note the connection between *Luke 24:44-53 & Acts 1:1-11*. 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; see also Luke 9:22, 44, 17:25, 18:31-33; 1 Corinthians 2:2, 11:23*
4. Now, how can we be sure that the continuous, traditional, orthodox, catholic teaching & doctrine- in St. Vincent's words, "that which has been believed everywhere, always, & by all"- is in fact Biblical, apostolic, & holy? This body of knowledge includes, but is not limited to, the three creeds, the *Small Catechism*, & even the *Augsburg Confession*. *See John 5:37-40, 8:31-32, 14:6, 26, 16:13; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Galatians 1:8-9; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:16, 3:14, 4:3; 1 Peter 1:10-11; 2 Peter 1:1-3, 12, 19-21*

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

5. "Witnesses" saw/experienced something & 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? Note: you already received the power from on high of the Holy Spirit in your baptism.
6. Jesus promises to come soon (*vv12, 20-21*). How do the very real things of worship, connecting heaven & earth, prepare us for his soon coming? How can you help other see this & get prepared, too?

Festival of Our Lord's Ascension  
Series: Worship- Heaven on Earth

05.29.22  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Just Deserts

*Jesus comes to reward the faithful*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life & may enter the city by the gates. (*v14*)

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

Go and 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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