

MAY 24, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Eternal life begins now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension of Jesus
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:13-28	Paul's encouraging words
Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	God's protection
Friday	Ephesians 4:11-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **John 17:3 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, give us the Spirit of Christ that we may know you and live with you today and with one another in love. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord of orphans and protector of widows, as we enjoy this meal, we pray for food for all people. Amen. (Psalm 68:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ support and strengthen you. (1 Peter 5:10)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Change My Heart,
O God*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe what a best day in your life would look like.
- What role do friends and family have in your life when you describe your best day?
- What do you think God would want as part of your best day?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 17:1-11.

Being with God in eternity seems to be something we anticipate after we die, but not in the Gospel of John. Eternity is understood as a life that begins now and is experienced through faith in "the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (v. 3). Jesus speaks of his glory (vv. 1, 4, 5, 10). The hour of his glory is his suffering, death, and resurrection. We participate in Jesus' glory as those who remain in the world now protected by God (v. 11). Eternal life is experienced as a life of glory that knows suffering but also knows God in Christ. A personal relationship with Jesus is not private. We live in eternity now as the body of Christ in the world together. Therefore, Jesus prays that all of his followers "may be one, as we are one," that is, as Jesus and the Father are one. Eternal life involves a relationship to God that knows, trusts, and believes in Jesus as the one who is with the Father. One may ask, "How do you think you will experience eternity after you have died?" John's question would be, "How do you experience eternity now, living with God and with one another in a world that God loves?"

Pray: **Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of faith that we may experience your presence in our lives through the body of Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



In 1 Peter 5:9, we are reminded to be steadfast in our faith. There are many places in the world today where Christians are suffering and being persecuted. Be aware of this suffering by learning more about it and be in prayer for those who cannot express their faith freely. Pray for missionaries working in those parts of the world that they will remain steadfast in their faith.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven as a cloud took him out of sight. Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Make a dessert in a glass alternating blue gelatin with whipped cream to symbolize the sky, clouds, and Jesus' ascension. Talk about ways you have been or can be a witness for Jesus. After you finish, say the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org