



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Daily Devotion at Zion + May 2024 AD + Ascension

Ascension

There's no Easter without it!

Our Lord did not finish His saving work by rising from the dead, but by carrying our risen flesh to the right hand of God. Without that trip to the throne of God, His rising would have remained a personal victory for Him—but what about you?

How would you receive the benefits of His death and resurrection? Jesus cares about that question, because He is total love. Whatever He has, He seeks to give; whatever He is, He lives to share. How would His victory become yours?

The answer is the Ascension. His return to the heavens confirmed God's eternal acceptance of His sacrifice for sinners and *put it to work*. That's what God's "right hand" is: His almighty power to work on behalf of creation. God's power is the sacrificed body of Christ, raised for eternity.

What does that power look like in the world? It looks like a Church, the body of Christ, nourished by His own body and blood, and united with Him in prayer, love, and suffering. That Church doesn't exist to talk about God's power. It *is* God's power, calling sinners out the world into the power of faith.

Ascension falls on Thursday, May 9, this year. Don't miss it! There's no Easter without it—and no Church, no power, no mercy, no future! But with it, everything is ours, and we are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

About the Cover Art

Zion's spire points elegantly towards a traveling mass of clouds at sunset. Taller than many people realize (about 35 feet beyond the ridgeline), it raises a cross into the sky, so that when people look up, they see a symbol of something very low: our Lord's crucifixion. This practice of the Church marks even the heavens with the sign of our Lord's mercy and recalls the words of the angels after the Ascension: "This Jesus, whom you saw go into heaven, will come back just as you saw Him go" (Acts 1:11).

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 6 (May 5)

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| S | Leviticus 25:1-17
James 1:2-8, 16-18
Luke 12:13-21 | Th | Daniel 7:9-14
Hebrews 2:5-18
Matthew 28:16-20 |
| M | Leviticus 25:35-55
Colossians 1:9-14
Matthew 13:1-16 | F | 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Ephesians 2:1-10
Matthew 7:22-27 |
| T | Leviticus 26:1-20
1 Timothy 2:1-6
Matthew 13:18-23 | Sa | Numbers 11:16-17,
24-29
Ephesians 2:11-22
Matthew 7:28—8:4 |
| W | Leviticus 26:27-42
Ephesians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:41-46 | | |

These readings correspond to pages 1210—1246 in Volume III of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 7 (May 12)

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| S | Exodus 3:1-12
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 10:17-24 | Th | Zachariah 4:1-14
Ephesians 4:17-32
Matthew 9:1-8 |
| M | Joshua 1:1-9
Ephesians 3:1-13
Matthew 8:5-17 | F | Jeremiah 31:27-34
Ephesians 5:1-32
Matthew 9:9-17 |
| T | 1 Samuel 16:1-13a
Ephesians 3:14-21
Matthew 8:18-27 | Sa | Ezekiel 36:22-27
Ephesians 6:1-24
Matthew 9:18-26 |

W Isaiah 4:2-6
Ephesians 4:1-16
Matthew 8:28-34

These readings correspond to pages 1246—1273 in Volume III of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost (May 19)

S (<i>Vol. III pp. 1274-1278</i>) Deuteronomy 16:9-12 Acts 4:18-21, 23-33 John 4:19-26	Th Ezekiel 37:21b-28 1 John 2:18-29 Matthew 10:16-23
M Ezekiel 33:1-11 1 John 1:1-10 Matthew 9:27-34	F Ezekiel 39:21-29 1 John 3:1-10 Matthew 10:24-33
T Ezekiel 33:21-33 1 John 2:1-11 Matthew 9:35—10:4	Sa Ezekiel 47:1-12 1 John 3:11-18 Matthew 10:34-42
W Ezekiel 34:1-16 1 John 2:12-17 Matthew 10:5-15	<i>These readings (after Sunday) correspond to pages 3—32 in Volume IV of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Holy Trinity (May 26)

S Job 38:1-11; 42:1-5 Revelation 19:4-16 John 1:29-34	Th Proverbs 7:1-27 1 John 5:13-21 Matthew 11:25-30
M Proverbs 3:11-20 1 John 3:18—4:6 Matthew 11:1-6	F Proverbs 8:1-21 2:John 1-13 Matthew 12:1-14
T Proverbs 4:1-27 1 John 4:7-21 Matthew 11:7-15	Sa Proverbs 8:22-36 3 John 1-15 Matthew 12:15-21
W Proverbs 6:1-19 1 John 5:1-12 Matthew 11:16-24	<i>These readings correspond to pages 32—66 in Volume IV of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>