

May 17th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Seventh Sunday of Easter

This seventh Sunday of the Easter combines some of the content of Johannine theology. It is Sunday, when we experience the presence of Christ in God, within the baptized community, and throughout the cosmos.

[Acts 1:6-14](#)

The ascension moves to the establishment of the church in Jerusalem. So our contemplation of Christ's ascension leads us to the faithful devotion of the praying community.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

We respond to Luke's description of the ascension and primitive Christian community by singing [Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35](#). One of the oldest psalms, Psalm 68 praises God for acting with power in the history of Israel. Again, God is imagined as "up," "in the skies," riding upon the clouds. Ancient theophanies of earthquake and rainstorm signify the activity of the Almighty. Christians have used this imagery to praise God for the victory of Christ over sin and death and the ascent of Christ to the realms of the divine.

[1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)

This Sunday is the last in the semi-continuous reading of 1 Peter. At least in hearing about the sufferings of the church we hold before us all persecuted Christians around the world. The community of the baptized takes comfort in the mighty God who cares for us.

[John 17:1-11](#)

What has been called the High Priestly Prayer of John 17 is divided between the three years of the lectionary on the Sunday after the Ascension. The church honors the glory of Christ's crucifixion along with that of his exaltation, which is referred to in the other readings. Proclaiming John 17 after, rather than before, Holy Week and Easter exemplifies the technique of the lectionary in layering biblical meanings in the worship life of the church.

