

MAY 21, 2017
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



The Holy Spirit is our helper.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul preaches in Athens
Tuesday	John 16:5-16	The work of the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	1 John 4:13-21	God has given us the Spirit
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Luke 24:44-53	Christ present in all times and places
Saturday	Psalms 66	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true.”

John 14:16-17 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us each day. May the Spirit walk with us so that we may believe in you and do the work that you would have us do. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

We thank you God, three-in-one, for these gifts from earth and sun. May praise and honor be said and sung, to the Father, Spirit, and Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit live in you and give you eyes of faith to see and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Holy Spirit, Come to Us



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who has been helpful to you? In what ways have you been of help to others?
- In John 14 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit who is called the Helper or Counselor, one who would walk with Jesus' followers. How does the Spirit walk with you so that you may believe in Jesus?
- How would you like the Holy Spirit to help you today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 17:22-31.

Paul is in Athens speaking to people who do not know Jesus. Paul addresses them by connecting with the Greek culture he sees around him. He commends them for their search for God. He quotes Greek poetry to connect his message with their longings for God. The Christian faith has always been a world religion that seeks to connect with local languages and cultures to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. From its beginnings, the message of the gospel has been translated from the language of the Old Testament (Hebrew) and the language of Jesus (Aramaic). It is a humbling and demanding challenge to communicate the gospel into contemporary languages and cultures. Reflect on how you share your faith in today's world. Pray for the work of the church to speak and work faithfully with the many cultures of the world.

SERVICE

Jesus told his disciples, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:18). Think about those around you, whether at school, work, neighborhood, or home, who may feel alone. Reach out to them with love and care.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Thursday (May 25) is Ascension Day. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. This day marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection. In Acts 1:9 it states that Jesus ascended into a cloud. Clouds represent a biblical image for the presence of God. Go outside to see if there are any clouds. If so, notice what shapes you can find. There is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God. Say these words,

“Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!”.



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