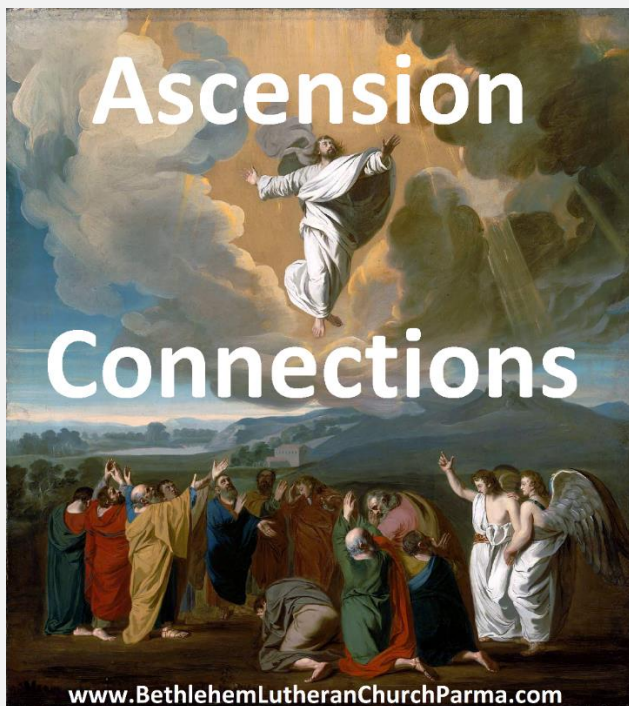


The Ascension of Our Lord – 2021

Thursday, 5/13 at 7:00



Text: Portions of Acts 1 and Luke 24 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Since we were all in grave trouble because of our sins, *God sent His Son to save us!* One way to summarize Jesus' work is with what I call the **BIG FIVE**, that is, Jesus' BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH, RESURRECTION, and ASCENSION!

This sermon will **touch** on the time between Jesus' resurrection and ascension, **focus** on the day of Jesus' ascension, and **touch** on what should be going on now – until Jesus returns.

Today's sermon text is from **Acts 1** and **Luke 24**; I have combined them together into chronological order. Keep in mind, the Spirit moved Luke to write down both books.

1. **Between Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension:** [Acts 1:3](#): To [the apostles] [Jesus]... presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. // What happened?
 - a. Jesus proved He was alive: Over a period of 40 days – from *Easter Sunday through the day of His ascension* – the apostles ♦ saw Him, ♦ spoke with Him, ♦ touched Him, and ♦ ate with Him!
 - b. Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God: That phrase appears in 65 NT verses. ♦ The kingdom belongs to God; ♦ Jesus is the only door through which people can enter; and ♦ those inside are blessed now and forever!
2. **Ascension Day – Important Reminders:** Jesus must have said the following in a *different place* from which He ascended – *because of* [verse 50](#) below. [Luke 24:45-48, 50a](#): Then [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written [*in the OT*], that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.” ... ⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany...
 - a. Understanding the Scriptures: When ♦ **we want to understand** and ♦ **we spend time** reading, thinking, and praying, *God will make the Scriptures known to us!*
 - b. Proclaiming: Speaking God's Word of Law and Gospel.
 - c. The Spirit works repentance: **1:** I have **sinned**, **2:** I deserve **hell**, **3:** I am **helpless** to save myself, **4:** I am **sorry** for my sins, **5:** I believe in **Jesus** for forgiveness!

3. **Ascension Day – Wait for the Holy Spirit:** Imagine they traveled from one location to Bethany as a *loose group*; then... **Acts 1:4-5:** *Gathering them together*, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” // Jesus spoke those words on the day He ascended. It would have been natural for His apostles to immediately return to Galilee, so Jesus told them to **STAY IN JERUSALEM until they had received the Holy Spirit.**
4. **Ascension Day – Be My Witnesses:** A second conversation about being Jesus’ witnesses, *which emphasizes the importance of that task!* **Acts 1:6-8:** *So when they had come together*, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times [*periods of time*] or epochs [*points in time*] which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” **Luke 24:50b:** and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.
- Earthly kingdom:** The apostles were still thinking about an earthly kingdom, so *Jesus quickly shut that down.*
 - Spirit – power – witness:** In this life it is so easy to get pulled into things that are *unimportant* and *temporary*. So let us – **beginning today** – start remembering **we** have the Spirit, **we** have the power, and **we** know God’s truth, **so let us get going on telling others!**

5. **Ascension Day – Jesus’ Ascension:** [Acts 1:9](#): **And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** // Jesus is now ✨at the right hand of the Father and ✨ruling over all things *for the good of those who believe in Him!*
6. **Ascension Day – Jesus’ Promised Return:** [Acts 1:10-11](#): **And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.** ¹¹ **They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”** // Jesus is coming back; *through knowing Jesus we are ready!* Since many are living as if heaven and hell do not exist, *let us love them by calling them to repent!*
7. **Ascension Day – Response:** [Luke 24:52-53](#): **And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,** ⁵³ **and were continually in the temple praising God.** // They obeyed Jesus: ✨staying in Jerusalem and ✨waiting for the Holy Spirit; after 10 days, *He arrived!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – BIG Five: What are they? (Not sure, see page 1)
- **Relevance** – Speak about **repentance for forgiveness**: The HS’s work: Five key words: **S—H—H—S—J** (See part 2)
- **Inspiration** – Heaven is open for **ALL** through Jesus!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus – *risen, ascended, and ruling*, give us love and courage to speak **repentance for forgiveness!**

Website: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com; **YouTube:** Bethlehem, Parma
Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230