

“JESUS ON THE MOVE”
“Jesus Moves through Witness”

Today is the last Sunday in Easter. In more liturgical churches, Thursday was celebrated as the Ascension of Jesus. It always falls ten days before Pentecost and so always falls on a Thursday. Obviously most churches skip over it or they celebrate on Sunday. It is a hard thing to get one’s mind around, and yet in the Apostle’s creed, we state that Jesus ascended into heaven. We are finishing our sermon series, “Jesus on the Move: Offering New Life.” Now as we finish the 50 days of Easter we are inviting people to wait with the disciples for the gift of God’s Spirit. So we move through the last days of Easter and prepare for the coming of God’s Spirit. Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Jesus Moves through Witness”**

Daily prayer:

Almighty God, as we prepare our hearts today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen. (from re-worship.blogspot.com)

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, June 3, 2019 Luke 24: 44-49

In Luke's gospel, this is Jesus' last appearance to his disciples. Again in these verses, Jesus recounts how everything in the law and the prophets and the psalms point to a different kind of Messiah. This Messiah doesn't rule by strength, but by suffering and serving. "Christ is risen from the dead" so that "a change of heart and life can be preached." "You are witnesses." Much of what we do as people is a witness to something whether we realize it or not. *Is what we say or do pointing to something greater, pointing love, pointing to God? Has being on the move with Jesus been a witness to the love and grace offered in Christ? Today, pray and ponder what your witness will be.*

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 Luke 24: 50-53

Jesus asked the believers to wait for the Spirit. They worshipped and praised God without knowing what would happen next. Jesus blessed them and then left the disciples so that his presence and more importantly God's presence could be made real in their lives and witness. They returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy and continuously were praising God in the temple. Praising God for what? For what God had done in their lives through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. *Later this week we will read the beginning of Acts where this author retells this story in more detail. What would cause you to be overwhelmed with joy and make you constantly praise God?*

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 Ephesians 1: 15-19

Paul began this letter to the church at Ephesus reminding the believers they are children of God through Christ. In the first fourteen verses, Paul packs much into this plan of God who gives us good news in Christ Jesus. Paul is praying for the church because of their faith and their love for all God's people. "I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call...that is working among believers." Unity is an important theme in this letter as is the understanding that the church is to live out God's love and grace. God has gifted those who follow Jesus with the power and spirit of wisdom that makes sharing the good news with others possible. This legacy of faith that is given is possible through the hope, love, grace and energy given by God. *How do you live out your faith?*

Thursday, June 6, 2019 Ephesians 1: 20-23

Paul continues to emphasize Christ life, death and resurrection as part of that power. Christ is the "head" of this community of faith and the church is the "body." Christ's presence can fill this community in so many ways. Part of focusing on the ascension of Jesus is that physically one person cannot be everywhere. The Spirit, which is not physical, can fill, strengthen, challenge and help the church be all that God wants it to be. Jesus presence becomes more real because of the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift. *How do you know and experience the power of Christ in your life?*

Friday, June 7, 2019 Acts 1: 1-14

The author of Luke/Acts begins his "sequel" by recounting again the ascension of Jesus. Beginning with the sixth verse, he adds some more information. The disciples were concerned with the restoration of the kingdom of Israel. Jesus certainly tried on many occasions to show how this is not the kingdom about which he was talking. Instead, Jesus encouraged them to wait, until they experienced the gift of the Spirit which would help them be witnesses to all they have seen and known. They returned, waited and prayed for what was promised. The disciples were looking back to when Israel was a great power and looking up to where Jesus had gone, but they forgot to look forward to where God was leading them and how they were called to "*Draw the Circle Wide*". *Sunday we celebrate Pentecost the birthday of the Church. Come and worship as we look forward to what God is doing as we "Draw the Circle Wide!"*