



New Testament 4

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

I sin when I live as if the ascended Christ is no longer active in my life and the world.

Jesus ascended into heaven to prepare an eternal home for me, and I can trust His promise to be with me now and always.

Bible Words

Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20

Fun Facts

Luke, a doctor, wrote two books of the Bible, Luke and Acts. Both were carefully recorded accounts written by an educated researcher. Both books are addressed to "Theophilus." (See Acts 1:1 from today's lesson, for example.) Who was Theophilus? He could have been someone who supported Luke's writing one way or another. The name *Theophilus* means "friend of God," so it could also be that Luke is addressing the books to all "friends of God" who read Luke and Acts. As you study the two passages for this lesson, see how the accounts link the end of Luke to the beginning of Acts, like a book series of sorts.

Jesus Ascends into Heaven

Acts 1:1–11; Luke 24:44–53

Luke connects his Book of Acts back to his "first book," the Gospel of Luke. The disciples heard Jesus' teachings and witnessed His miraculous works, especially His bloody death and glorious resurrection. Now, Jesus gives His final teachings before He returns to the Father (Acts 1:3–5).

Not only does Jesus teach the disciples about the purpose of His life and work—namely, that He came to forgive sinners by dying and rising for them—but He also prepares them to receive "the promise of the Father," that is, the Holy Spirit Himself (v. 4).

Before Jesus ascends, He commissions His eleven disciples to be His witnesses (v. 8). The Book of Acts demonstrates how the Holy Spirit works through the preaching of Christ and Him crucified to make the Church grow and flourish.

As Jesus ascended, "a cloud took Him out of their sight" (v. 9), and two angels appeared and asked the disciples why they were looking up into heaven. Jesus' Church does not live by sight, but rather by faithfully hearing His Word.

When He ascends, Jesus does not leave His Church (see Matthew 28:20). He may no longer be visibly present, but He is very much present in the baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:19–20), in the preaching of the Gospel (Mark 16:15), in the forgiving of sins (John 20:23), and in the breaking of the bread (see Luke 24:30, 35).

Sing

Look for the video "Why Do You Peer Into the Skies" on the Concordia Publishing House Music channel on YouTube and listen to a new song about Jesus' ascension. Try singing along!

Prayer

Father in heaven, keep us in Your care while we dwell here in waiting. Give us the strength of Your Spirit to share Your Word with the world so all nations will be ready when Jesus comes back on the Last Day to bring us to His side. In His name we pray. Amen.