

MAY 17, 2026
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Eternity is living now with God and with one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension of Jesus
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Paul's encouraging words
Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	God's protection
Friday	Ephesians 4:7-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, give us the Spirit of Christ that we may know you and live with you today and with one another in love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of orphans and protector of widows, as we enjoy this meal, we pray for food for all people. Amen. (Psalm 68:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of grace strengthen you.



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MAY 17, 2026
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Change My Heart, O God



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you could spend a day doing anything you want to do, what would it be?
- How is God's love different than a friend's love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 17:1-11.

Being with God in eternity seems to be something we anticipate after we die, but not in the Gospel of John. Eternity is understood as a life that begins now and is experienced through faith in "the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (v. 3). Jesus speaks of his glory. The hour of his glory is his suffering, death, and resurrection. We participate in Jesus' glory as those who remain in the world now protected by God. Eternal life is experienced as a life of glory that knows suffering and also knows God in Christ. A personal relationship with Jesus is not private. We live in eternity now as the body of Christ in the world together. Therefore, Jesus prays that all of his followers "may be one, as we are one," (v. 11) that is, as Jesus and the Father are one. Eternal life involves a relationship to God that knows, trusts, and believes in Jesus as the one who is with the Father. One may ask, "How do you think you will experience eternity after you have died?" John's question would be, "How do you experience eternity now, living with God and with one another in a world that God loves?"

Discuss: What difference does it make for you to know that eternity is now, and not just after you die?

Pray: **Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of faith that we may experience your presence in our lives through the body of Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is experiencing challenges in their life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven as a cloud took him out of sight. Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Make a dessert in a glass alternating blue gelatin with whipped cream to symbolize the sky, clouds, and Jesus' ascension. While eating the dessert, think or talk about ways you have been or can be a witness for Jesus. After you finish, say the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org