

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Romans 8:30-39
Monday	John 2:1-25; Psalm 78:15-22; Proverbs 15:1-3
Tuesday	John 3:1-36; Psalm 78:23-30; Proverbs 15:4-6
Wednesday	John 4:1-45; Psalm 78:31-41; Proverbs 15:7-9
Thursday	John 4:46-5:17; Psalm 78:42-47; Proverbs 15:10-12
Friday	John 5:18-47; Psalm 78:48-55; Proverbs 15:13-16
Saturday	John 6:1-21; Psalm 78:56-62; Proverbs 15:17-20

DEVOTIONAL: READ ROMANS 8:30-39

For Paul, the reality of the ascension provided unparalleled confidence in the love of God. As long as Jesus is on the throne, then nothing on the face of the earth, nothing in the heights of heaven, nor anything in the depths of hell, stands a chance at separating us from God's love.

Jesus' work did not end when He took our place on the cross. We could be tempted to see the ascension of Jesus as a retreat into heaven until the second coming or to think that He is not currently doing anything. Scripture teaches us that Jesus is actively ruling His kingdom from heaven, constantly interceding for us to the Father, and eagerly preparing for His great

return. The ascension was not Jesus abandoning us until a later date. In fact, the ascension ought to give us great encouragement.

The ascension of Jesus means that we have an advocate before the Father securing our salvation forever. Jesus in heaven with the Father means that one day we will be in heaven with the Father. May the security found in knowing God's love for us make us humble, grateful, joyful, and confident. And may Jesus' relentless love and intercession for us, motivate us to love and pray for others. As Jesus does for us, may we persistently intercede for our friends and family who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

REFLECTION

Have you ever felt like Jesus was absent from your life and not paying attention? Confess that to Him and ask for more awareness of His work for you.

What in life is making you feel distant from the love of God? How is His love more powerful than that?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is actively interceding for you before the Father and that nothing can separate you from His love?

DISCUSSION

What have you been thankful for recently?

PRAYER

Risen Christ, I am overwhelmed. How can I respond to all that You are and all You have done? You are gracious and merciful, faithful and loving, patient and forgiving, true and beyond description! You have taken my shame and guilt, my treason and hate, my angst and resentment, my deceit and oppression to the grave and overcome it with Your everlasting life! Your glory eclipses my sin now and forever.

Even as I pray, I know that You are praying for me with the Holy Spirit to Your Heavenly Father and mine, perfectly and persistently. I have nothing to offer, but my ever-present need for You.

You are here. You are with me and never far from me. Thank You, Jesus, for not only pulling me out of my sinful state, not only cleansing me completely, but caring for me, giving me strength, and giving me a mission. You are with me, and I am eternally safe and secure. Amen.