TEXT SUMMARY

The Ascension of Christ is a neglected topic in Christian publishing, but it is spoken of many times in Scripture. This is why there are multiple texts for this week's sermon, Daniel's dream (Dan 7:9-10, 13-14) and Luke's account of the event in Acts 1:6-11. In addition, the Scripture reading includes Psa 110:1-2, 5 and Phil 2:9-11.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

1. Dan 7:9-10, 13-14: Daniel sees the Ascension of Christ in the courts of heaven.
    - Daniel's dream deals with God's judgment on the nations. What happened in that dream?
    - It was remarkable to see "one like a son of man" among the millions of angels in attendance in the court of the Ancient of Days. What does Psa 8:5 say about man's status compared to angels?
2. Acts 1:6-11: Jesus' followers observe the Ascension of Christ on the earth.
    - Context (v. 1-5): What did Jesus discuss with His followers in the forty days between His Resurrection and His Ascension?
    - The angels interrupt the disciples' upward gaze to remind them of Jesus' promise. What is that promise?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

How do the other Scriptures in the reading (Psa 110:1-2, 5 and Phil 2:9-11) speak of the Ascension of Christ?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

1. **One way to think about any key doctrine is to try to imagine how our faith would be different without it.** How would your faith be diminished if you didn't know that…
    - Christ is still both God and man?
    - Christ is interceding for you before God?
    - Christ has given authority over all the nations?
    - Christ will come again just as He left us?
2. **Many people struggle with the idea that Christ is on the throne controlling the affairs of men and nations.** They have difficulty reconciling the idea of a God who is wise and just and all-powerful when they see all the injustice and suffering in our world. How do you deal with that difficulty?
3. **We live in between the time of Christ's first coming, which was quiet, and His Second Coming, which will be dramatic.** We live in the familiar "now but not yet" phase of knowing God's promises but not yet seeing them brought to fulfillment.

    How can you sustain your own faith – and how can you help others whose faith is wavering – in this long and discouraging interim?