

St. John's Church School
Ascension

Ascension – Special Event

Bible: Mark 16:14-end; Acts 1:1-11.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples for forty days, and spoke of the Kingdom of God. At the end of the forty days, as they watched on, he was taken up from earth into heaven, and a cloud received him out of their sight, and he sat down at the right hand of God. Two angels appeared to tell them that the next time they would see him with their bodily eyes is when Christ came again in a cloud of glory, to judge the world.

What does it mean to say “he ascended into heaven”? It means that before the eyes of his disciples, forty days after his resurrection, Christ was taken up from earth into heaven, and received into a cloud of their sight. There he “sitteth at the right hand of the Father”, until he shall “come again to judge the quick and the dead”.

Why did Christ ascend into heaven? He goes to prepare a place for us, to take possession for us of the promised inheritance of everlasting life in heaven. In Christ, we have already entered heaven.

What does Christ do for us in heaven? “We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins”. As our advocate with the Father, he makes continual intercession for us, presenting and pleading before the Father the merits of his all sufficient sacrifice for sin. We are thus assured of the Father’s favour and the forgiveness of our sins.

What does his sitting at the right hand of the Father mean? That God has highly exalted him, and invested in him all authority and power in heaven and earth, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, and every tongue confess, that he is Lord.

What benefit do we receive from Christ’s exaltation to power and authority?

First, that by his Holy Spirit he pours out heavenly gifts upon us, the members of his body; and also that we are in safety under his protection.

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If Christ is in heaven, are we left alone on earth? No: though in his humanity Christ departs from the world to the Father, he does not leave us orphans, for he remains to us in his divinity, and comes to us by his Spirit, and abides with us to the end of the world.

What did the disciples do after Christ ascended into heaven? In obedience to his command, the disciples waited in Jerusalem, and continued with one accord in prayer and supplication for the promised gift of the Spirit, which was given ten days later, on the feast of Pentecost.

For what purpose did Christ give them the gift of the Spirit? Before he ascended, Christ gave his apostles commission to preach the Gospel in all the world, as the witnesses of his death and resurrection, and to call all nations and peoples to the obedience of faith. By sent them to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever he had taught them. (Matthew 28; Luke 24; Mark 16; Acts 1).

Activity:

Art Activity planned by the Special Events Committee