



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**



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Overview

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord celebrates Jesus's return to the Father in heaven forty days after Easter. In the Gospel, Jesus gathers his disciples on a mountain and gives them an important mission before he ascends: to go out into the whole world, make disciples and baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

For children, the Ascension can sometimes sound like Jesus is "leaving." Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders can help children understand that Jesus is not abandoning his friends (last week). Instead, Jesus remains with us in a new way. The Gospel ends with one of the most comforting promises in Scripture: "I am with you always." Jesus is still present through the Holy Spirit, through prayer, through the Church, through Scripture, and especially in the Eucharist.

This Solemnity also reminds us that every baptized person has a mission. The disciples were ordinary people who were nervous and unsure, yet Jesus trusted them to share the Good News. Children can understand that they, too, are called to show Jesus' love through kindness, forgiveness, welcoming others, helping those in need, and speaking about their faith.

The Ascension is not simply about Jesus going "up" into the sky. Jesus returns to the Father, but he also sends the disciples outward. The Church moves from waiting and learning to proclaiming and serving.

Leaders can emphasize three simple themes for children:

- † Jesus is always with us.
- † We are called to share God's love.
- † Heaven is our true home with God.

Key Messages for Children

1. Jesus went to be with the Father, but he still stays close to us.
2. Jesus gives all of us a mission to share love and hope.
3. We can be Jesus' helpers in the world.
4. We meet Jesus in prayer, the Church, and the Eucharist.
5. God wants everyone to know they are loved.

Key Messages for Leaders

- † Help children move beyond a literal "Jesus floating away" understanding.
- † Emphasize presence rather than absence.
- † Connect the Ascension to baptism and discipleship.
- † Encourage children to see everyday acts of love as sharing the Good News.
- † Reinforce that the Church continues Jesus' mission today.

Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- How do I help children recognize that Jesus is still present today?
- In what ways am I living the mission Jesus gives in the Gospel?
- What simple examples can I share of "bringing Jesus" to others??

Leader Takeaway

The Ascension is not the end of the story — it is the beginning of our mission.

Background

Acts 1:1–11 frames the Ascension as the transition from Christ's earthly ministry to the Church's mission empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells the apostles not to speculate about the timing of the kingdom's restoration, because the decisive factor is receiving "power" from the Spirit so that they can be witnesses "to the ends of the earth." The cloud and Jesus' "taking up" visually signal a definitive change in his mode of presence: he enters glory and is enthroned at God's right hand, even while the disciples must wait in faithful watchfulness. In other words, the Ascension is not abandonment; it is the beginning of a new, Spirit-led way to continue Christ's reign through apostolic testimony.

Psalms 47 celebrates God as the universal King, inviting all peoples to rejoice and praise. In Christian worship, this kingship is seen in Christ's Ascension, where He triumphantly establishes divine rule over nations, encouraging the faithful to praise rather than fear. This fits with Ascension Sunday, as Christ's departure into glory lays the foundation for the Church's hope and worship.

Ephesians 1:17–23 expresses that we should receive "a spirit of wisdom and revelation" to understand our hope, God's power, and Christ's authority. It emphasizes that God's power is shown through Christ's resurrection and His position at God's right hand, making Him more than just a past teacher—He is God. Paul concludes that Christ is the head of the Church, meaning that the Church draws its strength from Christ and shares in His authority through their connection with Him.

Matthew 28:16–20 places the risen Christ's Ascension or Royal Authority at the center of the Great Commission: Jesus declares that "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." The command to "make disciples of all nations" explains what Ascension authority produces: mission. The trinitarian baptismal formula ("in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit") and the call to "teach" obedience show that discipleship is not only a message but an incorporation into Christ's life and commandments. Matthew assures the Church that the Ascension does not mean absence: "I am with you always, to the end of the age," which harmonizes with the idea of Christ's glorified presence continuing through apostolic witness.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Dear children, today, Jesus tells us that he will always be with us. Go with your leaders and learn how God sends the Holy Spirit to us.

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God our Father, make us joyful in the Ascension of your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow Him in everything we do. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Acts 1.1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

After his suffering, he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47.1-2, 5-6, 7-8

R. God has gone up with a shout,
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth. **R.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises. **R.**

For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.
God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1.17-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28.16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

FIRST READING

Acts 1.1-11

Jesus taught his apostles after he rose from the dead, and he promised that the Holy Spirit would guide them.

He said, "Do not leave Jerusalem yet. Wait there for what God has promised!" He explained that John baptized with water, but soon the apostles would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The apostles asked, "Lord, is this the time you will fix the world?" Jesus answered them, "You do not need to know the exact times God has chosen. But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and all the way to the ends of the earth."

While they were watching, Jesus was taken up into heaven. A cloud hid him from their sight.

Then two men dressed in white stood beside them and said, "People, why are you staring up at the sky? Jesus will come back the same way you saw him go into heaven."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47.1-2,7-8

R. God goes up with shouts of joy.

Clap and cheer, everyone!

Sing joyful songs to God.

God is the greatest King over all the earth. **R.**

God is King of the whole earth.

Sing praise to God.

God is King over every nation. **R.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1.17-23

God wants to give you wisdom and understanding so you can know Him better. He wants to open your hearts so you can understand the gifts God has given us. God's power is so strong for everyone who believes.

God showed this great power when He raised Jesus from the dead and made Him sit in the place of honour in heaven, higher than all kings, powers, and authorities—now and in the future. And God has made Jesus the head over everything for the Church, which is His body and the fullness of Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28.16-20

Some of Jesus' friends met him on the mountain in Galilee. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some were still unsure of what Jesus had done. Jesus said to them, "All authority is given to me."

He told them to go and help people become Jesus' disciples—by baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and by teaching them to obey Jesus' commands.

And Jesus promised, "I am with you always."

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear? Allow children to respond.

Jesus told his friends to come to a mountain where he had promised to meet them. When they saw Jesus, some worshiped right away, and some still had doubts. That's okay—Jesus didn't run away from their mixed feelings. Instead, he came close and spoke to them with a strong promise.

Do you remember what Jesus said?

Jesus said something important: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." That means Jesus has power over everything—home, school, and the whole world. So when Jesus tells his friends what to do next, it's not just an idea—it's a message of love and strength.

How can you love Jesus?

Then Jesus gave them a mission. He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." A disciple is someone who learns from Jesus and tries to live like him. Jesus also said how to help people become his disciples:

- Baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Teach people to obey everything Jesus commanded.

And Jesus ended with the best part: "I am with you always." Jesus doesn't just send people out and walk away. He stays near—especially when it feels hard to be kind, truthful, and brave.

Let us all repeat: "Jesus is with me always!" Repeat numerous times.

You can help with Jesus' mission in small ways:

- You can pray to Jesus by paying attention when we pray, sing, or listen to Scripture. Worship is love shown to God.
- You can teach by forgiving, sharing, telling the truth, and helping others learn about Jesus.

What other ways can you help Jesus?

This week, try one "Jesus helps" action each day:

1. One minute of prayer (thank God, ask for help).
2. One kind choice (someone gets help because of you).

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

Let us pray to Jesus, who is with us always.

Assistant:

For the whole Church, that we may go and make disciples of all nations, and help everyone learn and love Jesus. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For our families, that parents and guardians may teach children to pray, and pray with them each day. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For all of us gathered here, that we may listen to God's Word with open hearts and learn to live it every day. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For anybody who feels doubt or fear, that Jesus helps them remember: he is with us always. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For each of us, that we may learn to obey Jesus' commands by being kind, forgiving, and truthful—in our homes and at school. We pray to the Lord. R:

The Leader says:

God our Father, hear our prayers. Keep us close to Jesus, now and always. Amen.

Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



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Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – **Goodwill donation suggested**
Matthew 28:16-20 - handout provided by thewordthisweek.net

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



ACTS 1:1-11



all Judea




Samaria



everywhere
in the world

1. Who did Jesus say would give power to the disciples?

- A. The king.
- B. The Holy Spirit. 
- C. Their parents.

5. What did the disciples do after Jesus went up?

- A. They went home.
- B. They kept looking up.
- C. They started to sing.

2. Where did Jesus first tell them to tell about him?


- A. Samaria. 
- B. The temple.
- C. Jerusalem.

6. How many men suddenly stood by them?

- A. Two.
- B. Twelve.
- C. One.




3. Where else did Jesus say they would go?

- A. To Rome.
- B. Judea and Samaria.
- C. Everywhere in the world. 


7. What were the men in the sky wearing?

- A. Red robes.
- B. White clothes.
- C. Blue sandals.

4. What happened to Jesus after he spoke?

- A. He was taken up into a cloud. 
- B. He went inside a house.
- C. He floated on water.

8. How did the men say Jesus will come back?

- A. In a big ship. 
- B. In the same way they saw him go.
- C. As a little baby.

Jesus Ascended into Heaven



The Ascension is one of the great feasts of the Church. Jesus went up, Body and Soul, into Heaven to be with His Father where He is waiting for all of us. Can you imagine what it was like for the apostles to see their leader and best friend going up to Heaven? It would be pretty amazing, don't you think?



At the same time, doesn't it seem a bit sad that Jesus left? Well, He knew it was time for His disciples to start working on their own. It was kind of like having someone there to help you learn to ride a bike and then they let you go so you can learn to bike on your own.

But Jesus didn't go away and leave us without any help. Nine days after He went into Heaven

WOW! DID YOU
SEE THAT?

He sent the Holy Spirit, who would help and guide His followers.



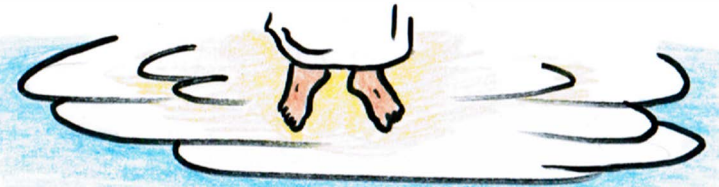
YES... WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO NOW?

Answer to puzzle on front page: God mounts His throne to shouts of joy! Answers to True or False: 1.True 2.False 3.False 4.True 5.True 6.False 7.True

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Ascension

A G B O C D D M E O F U G N H T H S J H K
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V H W O X U Y T Z S A O B F C J D O E Y F



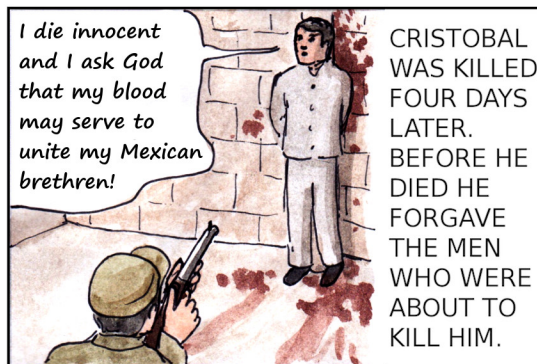
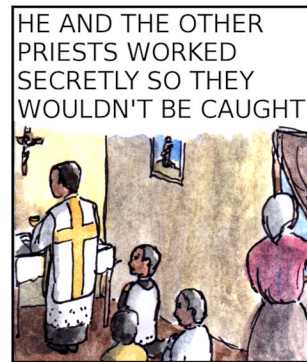
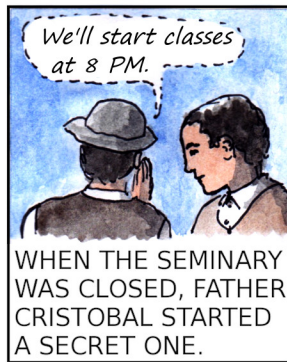
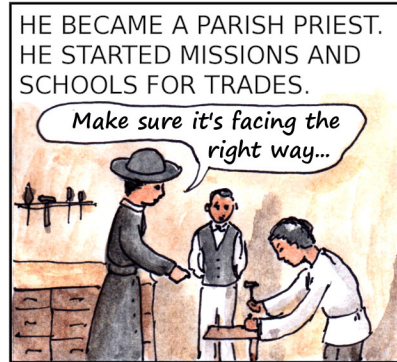
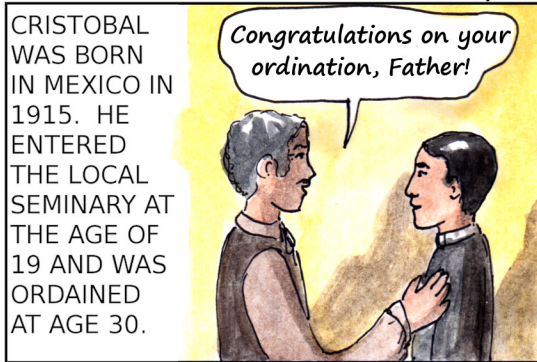
What does today's Psalm say about the Ascension? Use every other letter from the box of letters above to fill in the blanks below.

G

_____ !

Saint Cristobal Magallanes

May 21



SAINT CRISTOBAL WORKED TO HELP HIS FELLOW MEXICANS TO LIVE A BETTER LIFE. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO STOP THE CHURCH, HE KEPT WORKING ANYWAY. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIM THAT HELPING PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THEIR FAITH, IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HAVING A NICE SAFE LIFE.

True or False about... The Ascension

How well do you know the story of the Ascension?
See if you know which of these are true and which are false:

1. Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days after He rose from the dead. True or false?
2. When Jesus was with His disciples after He rose from the dead, they could only see Him but they couldn't touch Him. True or false?
3. Jesus didn't tell His friends that He was going to leave them. True or false?
4. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit. True or false?
5. The disciples had gathered together and asked Jesus if He was going to restore the earthly kingdom. True or false?
6. Nobody saw Jesus rise into the sky and disappear into a cloud. True or false?
7. Two men appeared to the disciples and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you looking at the sky?" True or false?

