

May 21, 2020 – The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Holy Day of Obligation

Lesson

Ascension is the rising of Jesus Christ from earth to heaven after Resurrection. This day comes 40 days after Easter. On Ascension Thursday we pray, sing, and rejoice with Jesus and all the angels and saints. We call it a holy day and celebrate it by participating in Mass. The gospel reading for the day is about the Ascension of Jesus.

The Story

We learned how Jesus died on the cross for the punishment of our sins. After He arose from the dead on Easter, He met with believers for forty days. Jesus wanted them to know for sure that He was God's Son, the Savior. Today we will learn what happened the last day Jesus was on earth.

Jesus wants all believers to tell all people what He did to save them. But He picked some men called apostles to learn more about His work. They were to become ready to witness or tell about Jesus to others around the earth.

On His last day on this earth, Jesus led the apostles to Mount Olivet near Bethany. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to them in a special way.

The Holy Spirit would lead them to tell all people that Jesus is their Savior.

Then, while Jesus lifted His hands and blessed them, He ascended, or was slowly lifted up until a cloud hid Him from sight. God, His Father, received Jesus into heaven and gave Him all power in heaven and earth.

While the apostles gazed up into the sky, two angels stood by them and said, "Why are you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who went up into heaven will come again in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." (*Acts 1:11*) Then the apostles praised Jesus and went joyfully to Jerusalem. They kept going to God's house to praise God while they waited to receive the Holy Spirit as Jesus had said.

Jesus Returns to Heaven – The Ascension YouTube video

Vocabulary Words

Ascension- the rising of Jesus Christ from earth to heaven after Resurrection

Resurrection- the bodily raising of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after he died on the cross

Baptize- when you are baptized it frees us from original sin and gives us new life in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit- the third Person of the Trinity who comes to us in Baptism and fills us with God's life

Mass- our most important means of praying to God. At Mass we listen to God's word, the Bible. We receive Jesus Christ in the bread and wine that has been blessed.

Bless- to bestow holiness on somebody or something

Gospel- means "Good News" and what good news the gospel reading says