

Years A, B and C

Feast of the Ascension

Jesus ascends into heaven

INTRODUCTION

(For this feast, we will use the Gospel from Year A.)
The time had come for Jesus to say goodbye to his friends and to return to his father in heaven. They had work to do when he was gone, but through the Holy Spirit they would never feel afraid or alone.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Say together:

Fill our hearts with the light of Jesus.

SORRY

We ask God to forgive us as we pray:

If we have been dishonest or unkind:

Lord, have mercy.

If we have been thoughtless or selfish:

Christ, have mercy.

If we have not shared your goodness
and peace with others:

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 28:16-20)

Jesus told the eleven disciples to go to a hill in Galilee where he would meet them. When they arrived there, Jesus appeared to them and said, "I want you to go to all peoples living far and wide, and make them disciples of mine; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; and teach them to keep the commandments I have given to you. Whatever you do, and wherever you go, I will always be with you, until the end of time." Then Jesus was taken up into heaven, and the disciples returned to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

DISCUSSION

Where did Jesus go? He returned to his father in

heaven. Why did Jesus leave the disciples? It was time for Jesus to be with his father again. He had done everything that his father had wanted him to do.

How do we feel when someone we love very much has to leave and go away? How do you think the disciples felt? They were filled with great sadness because they knew that they would not see Jesus again in this world, and they felt alone and afraid.

Jesus knew how sad and afraid his friends would feel, but he told them he would be with them always. How would he be with them? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and through the sharing of bread and wine at the eucharistic meal. In the same way, Jesus shares himself with us.

What was the job Jesus gave to the disciples? To go out to the peoples of the world and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and to share his love and teaching with everyone so that they would become Christ's followers.

Who does this job today? Sometimes people called missionaries travel to far-off countries to share God's word and faith with others, but each one of us in our own way can do the same with those around us, because we all have the Holy Spirit living within us and God's goodness working through us.

ACTIVITY

Cut out and recreate this picture of the ascension scene, with Jesus disappearing from sight behind a cloud.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to remember
that you are with us always,
and we need never be afraid.

Help us to go out
and do your work in this world
until we see you again,
when you come back to us
at the end of time.

THE ASCENSION



Forty days after Jesus had risen from the dead, He appeared for the last time to the apostles. He was then received up into heaven.