

## Sunday 24th of May- Ascension Day

Today's reading was meant for Thursday, which was Ascension Day. However, most people will probably not have read the reading on Thursday, so we'll be doing that today instead.

### Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus,  
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught  
until the day he was taken up,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
He presented himself alive to them  
by many proofs after he had suffered,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
While meeting with them,  
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for "the promise of the Father  
about which you have heard me speak;  
for John baptized with water,  
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him,  
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"  
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons  
that the Father has established by his own authority.  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
throughout Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth."  
When he had said this, as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.  
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,  
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.  
They said, "Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

### Reflections

Two men dressed in white garments appeared to the disciples- in what other part of the bible does a man dressed in white appear to individuals? Think about when the women came to find Jesus in the tomb: a man clothed in white appeared to them, telling the women that they must not be afraid and that they would find Jesus. So maybe the appearance of more men dressed in white suggests that the disciples should also not be afraid, and that although Jesus has just left them, they will find him again- he is not gone forever.

They said "Jesus will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven". Jesus left quite abruptly, so this means that he might also come back when the disciples least expect it.

But we know that even if Jesus ascended into heaven on Ascension Day, he was never truly gone from our Earth. He remains among us, always, as the Holy Spirit that guides us through our daily chores and activities.

We can help find the Holy Spirit among us by lighting candles, which reminds us of Jesus and how he is the light of the world, even if he ascended into heaven on that day.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

You guided the disciples on a long journey of faith, showed them the meaning of life and taught them Your ways.

You then ascended into heaven, leaving them behind.

But I know, Lord Jesus, that you have never really left us. You are forever around me, within me, with every step I take and every word I speak.

Guide me, like You did the disciples, teach me Your ways of love and compassion, so that I too may ascend into heaven one day and live by Your side.

In Your great name,

Amen

## Activity

Today's activity is quite crafty, so get those colouring pens out and get ready to produce a beautiful piece of work! I have made an example on the next page...



← Here is an example of what your product might look like...

Take a **BLUE** sheet of paper. – if you don't have one, you could try cutting out bits of blue from a magazine and sticking them onto plain paper!

Now take a **GREEN** piece of paper and stick it on the bottom, like in the picture, to create land.

And now for the fun bit: take **YELLOW** and **ORANGE** paper and cut out hand shapes. You can layer them up and stick them in a circular fan in the middle of your picture. These will be the rays of light as Jesus ascends to heaven.

Next, take a cotton pad and rip it up. You can stick this in a cloud shape on your image, in the middle of the rays of light. Otherwise, cut a cloud from white paper.

Now it's time to draw Jesus, who you will stick on the cloud.

The result should be an amazing picture of the Ascension- of Jesus rising into heaven!

If you want to, you could add some glitter to the rays to make them look even more radiant! You could even draw some disciples watching from below...

This task is meant to be fun, so let yourself go crazy with the craftiness! Jesus' ascension was a day of great joy, when Jesus would finally re-join his Father in heaven!

