

Prayer Service Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord

By Jean Grant

TO PREPARE: Create a bulletin board in the classroom that has a light blue background and several light, white billowy clouds. Provide each child with a coloring page of the risen Jesus to color using marker or crayon. On the picture of Jesus, students should write “Amen.” Older students can write their own prayer celebrating the mystery of the Ascension. Students will cut out and place their image in a basket for the prayer service. On the table there should be a candle, and if available, a crucifix.

LEADER: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.”

READER 1: When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

READER 2: 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.”

READER 1: 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.

READER 2: 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.”
The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

(One person should bring the basket of pictures of the Resurrected Christ forward and place it on the Prayer Table.)

LEADER: With glad and thankful hearts, let us together pray the The Apostles’ Creed.

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

LEADER: In conclusion, let us sing together “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (or other appropriate hymn).

Following the prayer service, students’ art and prayers can be added to the bulletin board as a symbol of faith.

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