

# The Ascension of Christ

The Feast of the Ascension of Christ commemorates Christ's ascension into Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father. Christ shows us that our life on earth is a preparation for the life we will have in Heaven. We see that God's plan for us is to be with Him when we leave earth. We are happy and filled with joy on this Feast day because we still remember Christ's Resurrection. The Ascension of Christ is the day we find out the true reason why Christ went through the crucifixion and resurrection – so that we may have life everlasting in Heaven.

**Christ has Ascended! Truly He has Ascended!**

**1.**

The Ascension of Christ is celebrated on the 40th day after Pascha (Easter). This always falls on the Thursday of the 6th week after the Resurrection of Christ.



**2.**

When Jesus Ascended, He told His disciples He would send the Holy Spirit to guide them and that we would never be alone.

**3.**

Christ appears to His disciples and brings them to the Mount of Olives. They are frightened and confused at first. This is His last day on earth with His disciples.

**4.**

Christ tells His disciples to “go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” **Matthew 28:19**

## Icon

The icon of the Ascension of Christ is bright in colour. Christ is in the center of a mandoria (an almond or round shape). He is seen giving a blessing with His right hand, and usually has a scroll in His left hand showing His teachings. His mother Mary is below Him praying. She is surrounded by His disciples. Two angels tell the disciples that Christ will come again at the end of time. St. Paul is shown even though he wasn't there on that day. All together, they represent the church with Christ at the head with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**5.**

Christ blesses His disciples and then ascends into Heaven, where He “sits at the right hand of the Father”. **Nicene Creed**

**6.**

On this day, Orthodox Christians greet each other saying: “Christ has Ascended! Truly He has Ascended!”

## Jesus' Ascension

*While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”... When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

**Luke 24:36-53**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How do Orthodox Christians greet each other on the feast day of the Ascension of Christ?

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Color the icon of the Ascension of Christ.



### PRAYER

*Christ God, Thou hast ascended in glory, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!*

*- Troparion of the Ascension -*

# The Ascension of Christ

## {Teacher's Edition}

**Lesson Objective:** To have children understand the importance of the Ascension of Christ.

**Introduction:** The Feast of the Ascension of Christ commemorates Christ's ascension into Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father. Christ shows us that our life on earth is a preparation for the life we will have in Heaven. We see that God's plan for us is to be with Him when we leave earth. We are happy and filled with joy on this Feast day because we still remember Christ's Resurrection. The Ascension of Christ is the day we find out the true reason why Christ went through the crucifixion and resurrection – so that we may have life everlasting in Heaven.

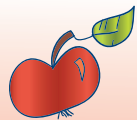
**Bible Reading:** **Jesus' Ascension**  
While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."... When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Luke 24:36-53

**Highlights:**

1. The Ascension of Christ is celebrated on the 40th day after Pascha (Easter). This always falls on the Thursday of the 6th week after the Resurrection of Christ.
2. When Jesus Ascended, He told His disciples He would send the Holy Spirit to guide them and that we would never be alone.
3. Christ appears to His disciples and brings them to the Mount of Olives. They are frightened and confused at first. This is His last day on earth with His disciples.
4. Christ tells His disciples to "go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19
5. Christ blesses His disciples and then ascends into Heaven, where He "sits at the right hand of the Father". Nicene Creed
6. On this day, Orthodox Christians greet each other saying: "Christ has Ascended! Truly He has Ascended!"

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**Activity:** Have children fill in the blanks, then colour the icon of the Ascension of Christ. (Christ has Ascended! Truly He has Ascended!)

**Prayer:** Christ God, Thou hast ascended in glory, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!  
- Troparion of the Ascension -