



**Sunday Activity
Pages**

May 9, 2024

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

1

Gospel

Gospel – Adapted from Mark 16:15-20

Jesus appeared to the Eleven Apostles and said to them, “Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to everyone. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be found guilty. These miracles will occur as proof of your message: in my name people will drive out evil spirits; they will speak new languages. People will handle serpents and be protected from deadly things. They will lay hands on the sick and heal them.”

After Jesus spoke to them, he was taken up into heaven to the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord was with them, and proved what they taught through miracles.

2

Reflection

Today is Ascension Thursday. (In many dioceses, this feast is celebrated on the following Sunday.) Today we celebrate Jesus's return to Heaven, forty days after His resurrection. He says that He returns to prepare a place for us. But today's Gospel also reminds us that although Jesus ascended to Heaven, He remains with His Church.

In today's Gospel, Jesus told the Apostles they were to go to the entire world and preach the gospel. They would baptize people into God's Church, and bring Jesus's salvation to the entire planet. These words were spoken to 11 men on a hilltop in Israel. It must have shocked them. They may have thought they were going to be the leaders of a small group, maybe only existing in Israel. Jesus's mission for them may have seemed impossible, but they would not be doing it alone.

They did exactly what Jesus told them to; they preached everywhere, and Jesus was with them. They performed amazing miracles to help the people who were listening to them believe. They did things they never would have believed possible just a few years before, when they were fishermen, or tax collectors, or whatever they were doing in their very ordinary lives. But they could accomplish these amazing things because Jesus was with them.

He is with us, too. Jesus has ascended to Heaven, where He prepares a place for us, but He is also so close to us now. He is in the Eucharist; he frees us from sin in the Confessional; he is inside of us through Baptism. He is so close to us all the time. Do we recognize it? We say it at Church, but do we live like Jesus is close to us? He is right here. Often we talk about how we see Jesus when we die, which is true. But we can see Him right now. He is close to you. He will never be far away.

3

Discussion Questions

Does it feel like Jesus is close to you? What can you do to recognize His presence more?

The Apostles shared the good news of Jesus with everyone. Is there someone in your life that you can share Jesus with? What can you do this week, to share Jesus with that person?

4

Vocabulary

- **Apostles** – The Apostles became the leaders of the Church, the first priests and bishops. Jesus told them to spread the gospel to the entire world. That is still the Church's mission.
- **Ascension** – Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus returned, Body and Soul, to Heaven. But He remains with His Church.
- **Church** – The Catholic Church is the people of God. It is also the Body of Christ. Jesus is with His Church, and we are called to bring Him to others, who do not know Him.
- **Evangelize** – To evangelize is to share the good news of Jesus with people who do not know it.

5

Fill in the Blank

- 1) Jesus established a _____, that exists everywhere on earth.
- 2) The _____ were ordinary men, but with Jesus, they were able to do amazing things.
- 3) We are called to _____, so people who do not know Jesus can learn about Him.
- 4) Forty days after Easter, Jesus went to Heaven, Body and Soul, at His _____.

- 1) What did Jesus command the Apostles to do?
 - A) Preach the gospel to the whole world
 - B) Handle deadly snakes
 - C) Write the Bible
 - D) Go to the cemetery and raise the dead

- 2) What would occur as proof of the Apostles' message?
 - A) Storms and earthquakes
 - B) Angels appearing to people
 - C) Miracles
 - D) Snakes will turn into lizards

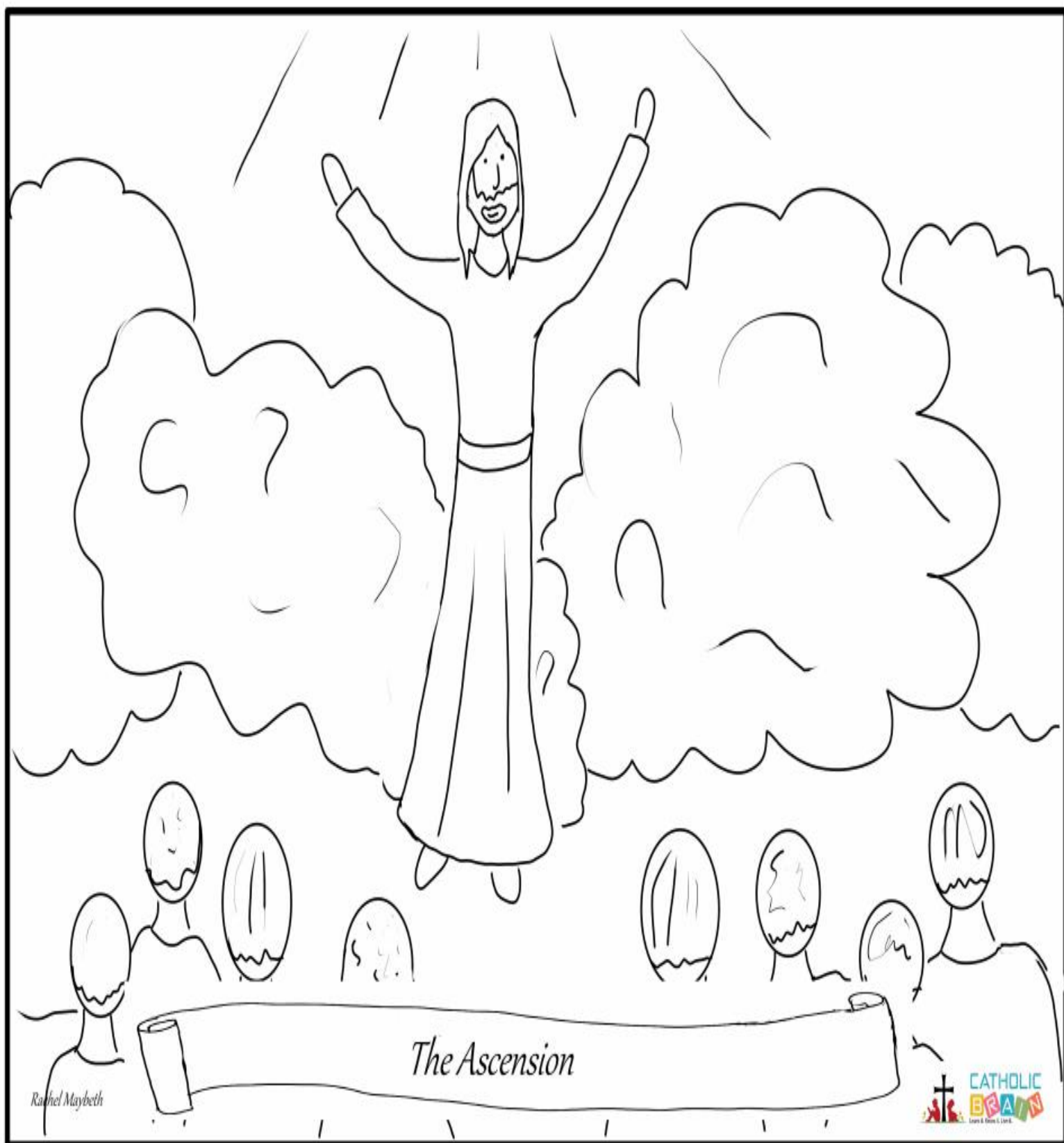
- 3) What happened to Jesus after He spoke to the Apostles in today's Gospel?
 - A) He rose to heaven
 - B) He went to Jerusalem
 - C) He walked on water
 - D) He was arrested

Thursday May 9

Q N T L R D H N X J W Q S Q Z V Z I Q P
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APOSTLES
 ASCENSION
 CHURCH
 EVANGELIZE
 GOSPEL
 HEAVEN





Fill in the Blank

- 1) Church
- 2) Apostles
- 3) Evangelize
- 4) Ascension

Quiz:

- 1) A – Preach the gospel to the whole world
- 2) C – Miracles
- 3) A – He rose to heaven