

Divine Liturgy, Kontakion, Tone 8

When you fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven, you ascended in Glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love You, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ✧ Come to Church as a family to celebrate the Feast Day. If you cannot come on the Feast itself, come on the eve of the Feast.
- ✧ As a family, read the Scriptural references and explain to your children the events of the Feast Day and the meaning behind the events.
- ✧ Discuss the Ascension icon with your children. If you have this icon in your home, display it in your family's place of prayer for veneration. You may wish to decorate it with flowers.
- ✧ This Feast has an "afterfeast" period of 7 days. Use the Troparion and Kontakion hymns as prayers before and/or after meals, and as a part of your children's evening prayers during this period.
- ✧ Use a helium balloon to describe the word "ascension."



FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
PLEASE
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COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST: THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD





THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CELEBRATED ON THE 40TH DAY AFTER PASCHA

On the 40th day after His passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified on the right hand of God (Acts 1:9-11; Mk 16:19; Lk 24:51). The Ascension of Christ is His final physical departure from this world after the resurrection. It is the formal completion of His mission in this world as the Messianic Savior. It is His glorious return to the Father Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work that He had given Him to do...

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate [this feast] with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with Himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for, and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the "heavenly sanctuary...the Holy Place not made by hands" (Heb 8-10). He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father, to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of His disciples (Worship, The Orthodox Faith, Vol. 2, by Fr. Thomas Hopko).

THE ASCENSION IN SCRIPTURE AND HYMNS

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Old Testament: Isaiah 2:2, 3; Psalm 24:7-10

Vespers, "Lord I Call," Sticheron 1

The Lord ascended to heaven to send the Comforter into the world! The heavens prepared His throne, the clouds His royal mount. The angels were amazed, seeing a man exalted. The Father awaits His everlasting Son. The Holy Spirit commands the angels! Lift up your hands, all you nations, for Christ has ascended to where He was before!

Vespers, Aposticha Doxastichon

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet; in order to raise the fallen image of Adam, and to send the Comforting Spirit, Who will sanctify our souls.

Matins, The Praises, Tone 2

By Your nativity You revealed Yourself. By Your sufferings in the flesh, You arose from the dead trampling down death by death! You ascended in glory, filling all things. You sent us Your Divine Spirit, that we may praise the glorify Your Divinity.

Matins, Canon of the Feast, Ode 8

When the men of Galilee saw Your ascension, O Word, they heard angels saying: "Why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

Divine Liturgy, Troparion, Tone 4

You Ascended in Glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the World!

