



THE ASCENSION OF JESUS INTO HEAVEN

Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see him as he is," face to face.⁵⁹⁸

This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.

To live in heaven is "to be with Christ." The elect live "in Christ,"⁶⁰⁰ but they retain, or rather find, their true identity, their own name.⁶⁰¹

By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has "opened" heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ.

This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. Scripture speaks of it in images: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the kingdom, the Father's house, the heavenly Jerusalem, paradise: "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."⁶⁰³

Because of his transcendence, God cannot be seen as he is, unless he himself opens up his mystery to man's immediate contemplation and gives him the capacity for it. The Church calls this contemplation of God in his heavenly glory "the beatific vision":

How great will your glory and happiness be, to be allowed to see God, to be honored with sharing the joy of salvation and eternal light with Christ your Lord and God, . . . to delight in the joy of immortality in the Kingdom of heaven with the righteous and God's friends.⁶⁰⁴

In the glory of heaven the blessed continue joyfully to fulfill God's will in relation to other men and to all creation. Already they reign with Christ; with him "they shall reign for ever and ever."⁶⁰⁵

⁵⁹⁸ 1 Jn 3:2; cf. 1 Cor 13:12; Rev 22:4.

⁶⁰⁰ Phil 1:23; cf. Jn 14:3; 1 Thess 4:17.

⁶⁰¹ Cf. Rev 2:17.

⁶⁰³ 1 Cor 2:9.

⁶⁰⁴ St. Cyprian, *Ep.* 58, 10,1: CSEL 3/2, 665.

⁶⁰⁵ Rev 22:5; cf. Mt 25:21, 23.

What Did You Learn About The Ascension of Jesus Into Heaven?

for younger saints

1. How did Jesus go to heaven?
 - a. He was lifted up into the clouds.
 - b. He just woke up one morning and was there.
 - c. He traveled to heaven on a chariot of fire.
2. What has God given to you to help you get to heaven?
3. What feast day celebrates the day that Jesus went to heaven?
 - a. the Annunciation
 - b. the Ascension
 - c. the Assumption
4. Our journey to heaven begins when we die.
true false
5. How does the Holy Spirit help us get to heaven?
6. Name as many of the seven sacraments as you can.
7. Recite your memory verse for this month.

What Did You Learn About The Ascension of Jesus Into Heaven?

for younger saints

Quiz Answers

1. How did Jesus go to heaven?

- a. He was lifted up into the clouds.
- b. He just woke up one morning and was there.
- c. He traveled to heaven on a chariot of fire.

2. What has God given to you to help you get to heaven?

Possible answers: Church, parents, the Bible, the sacraments, anyone who has told them about Jesus, priests, Family Formation, etc.

3. What feast day celebrates the day that Jesus went to heaven?

- a. the Annunciation
- b. the Ascension
- c. the Assumption

4. Our journey to heaven begins when we die.

true false (The journey begins when we are born.)

5. How does the Holy Spirit help us get to heaven?

He is our dear Friend who helps us know and love Jesus more and more. He will speak to us in our hearts about what is right and wrong and teach us what to do to grow in holiness.

6. Name as many of the seven sacraments as you can.

Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick

7. Recite your memory verse for this month.

The Glory Be: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

What Did You Learn About The Ascension of Jesus Into Heaven?

for older saints

1. What does the feast of the Ascension celebrate?
2. What has God given to you to help you get to heaven?
3. Who said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”? John 14:6
4. You can get to heaven by having very holy parents.
true false
5. Heaven is a place where we will never be sad, lonely, or unhappy.
true false
6. Jesus died on the cross to make up for our sins.
true false
7. Our journey to heaven begins when we die.
true false
8. Sacraments are signs of special grace—tools that God uses to help us grow in holiness.
true false
9. Name the seven sacraments.
11. Recite the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What Did You Learn About The Ascension of Jesus Into Heaven?

for older saints

1. What does the feast of the Ascension celebrate?

The feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' ascending into heaven.

2. What has God given to you to help you get to heaven?

Possible answers: Church, parents, the Bible, the sacraments, anyone who has told them about Jesus, priests, Family Formation, etc.

3. Who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"? John 14:6

Jesus

4. You can get to heaven by having very holy parents.

true

false (Each of us must make a personal decision to follow Jesus)

5. Heaven is a place where we will never be sad, lonely, or unhappy.

true

false

6. Jesus died on the cross to make up for our sins.

true

false

7. Our journey to heaven begins when we die.

true

false (The journey begins when we are born.)

8. Sacraments are signs of special grace—tools that God uses to help us grow in holiness.

true

false

9. Name the seven sacraments.

Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick

11. Recite the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Strength (Fortitude), Knowledge, Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe and Reverence), Piety (Holiness)