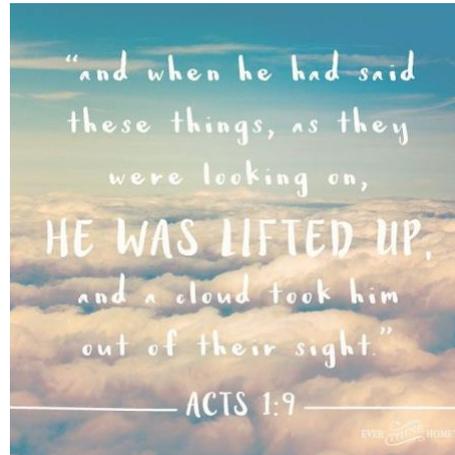


Sunday 14 May 2023

Easter 6



This Thursday is **Ascension Day**

This is the day we remember when Jesus left his disciples to return to his Father in heaven. We can read about what happened in the Bible, at the beginning of the book called the Acts of the Apostles (chapter 1, verses 1-11):

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

In our Church calendar, the celebration of the Ascension takes place forty days after Easter, because we are told that, after rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to his disciples over the course of forty days, before returning to his Father in heaven. The Ascension reminds us of who Jesus was, and also brings to mind the importance of how he has gone to prepare a place for us. We await his return, but we know that he is with us still in the meantime. In fact, the Ascension means that Jesus can be with us always and everywhere.



How do you think this is possible?

Jesus gave us special promises before his departure. He went to be with God the Father, but told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to them. We will celebrate that on Pentecost Sunday. We pray that his Holy Spirit will come to us, too, because it is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus can be with us in each and every moment.

On Ascension Day we celebrate that Jesus promised to prepare a special place for us and will return for us someday. The angels who spoke to the disciples after Jesus was lifted up told them that Jesus will return in the same way as they saw him go. We wait for that, but, in the meantime, his Holy Spirit fills us with his love and joy and peace and helps us to spread his love to others around us - to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth!



A prayer for this week:

Dear God, we thank you that you are always with us.

When we see the sun in the sky, we remember **you are there.**

When we feel the rain on our faces, we remember **you are there.**

When we watch the birds flying, we remember **you are there,**

When we sing and pray together, we remember **you are there.**

When it is dark and we feel alone, help us to remember **you are there.**

Amen.

Ascension: Paint by Number

Paint the following blocks of numbers using 1. Yellow 2. Orange 3. Blue 4. Tan 5. Purple 6. Green.



Name: _____

The Ascension of Jesus

T V F G J H U A F D C R I H V Q F
Y K N I W B C X X O S H S S G O K
J C Y A Y K F G A G W Z R U Q N A
R E F A I R D O A A A X A C A X S
T M R F P R P F R L D R E O P R C
N P T U J E A L S T I J L W O L E
U T P L S L T M F S Y L B P S D N
X F F L Y A Z V A U H D E N T X S
M B Y K N M L N D S K G A E L H I
H E A V E N M E I E Q E K Y E R O
X A T F I G Y O M J K Q N M S T N
E G M H V M W Y D B A P T I Z E D
F S K J Z J A W K G N T P U V A P
U U F N Z E C V A E N M N O M K Z
E B F B D X R T A K T I R D X H M
E T I U A R E H T A F L K F F X G
M P J B T I H O L Y S P I R I T X

Heaven

Galilee

Samaria

Judea

Israel

Baptized

Gift

Father

Jerusalem

God

Kingdom

Forty Days

Holy Spirit

Apostles

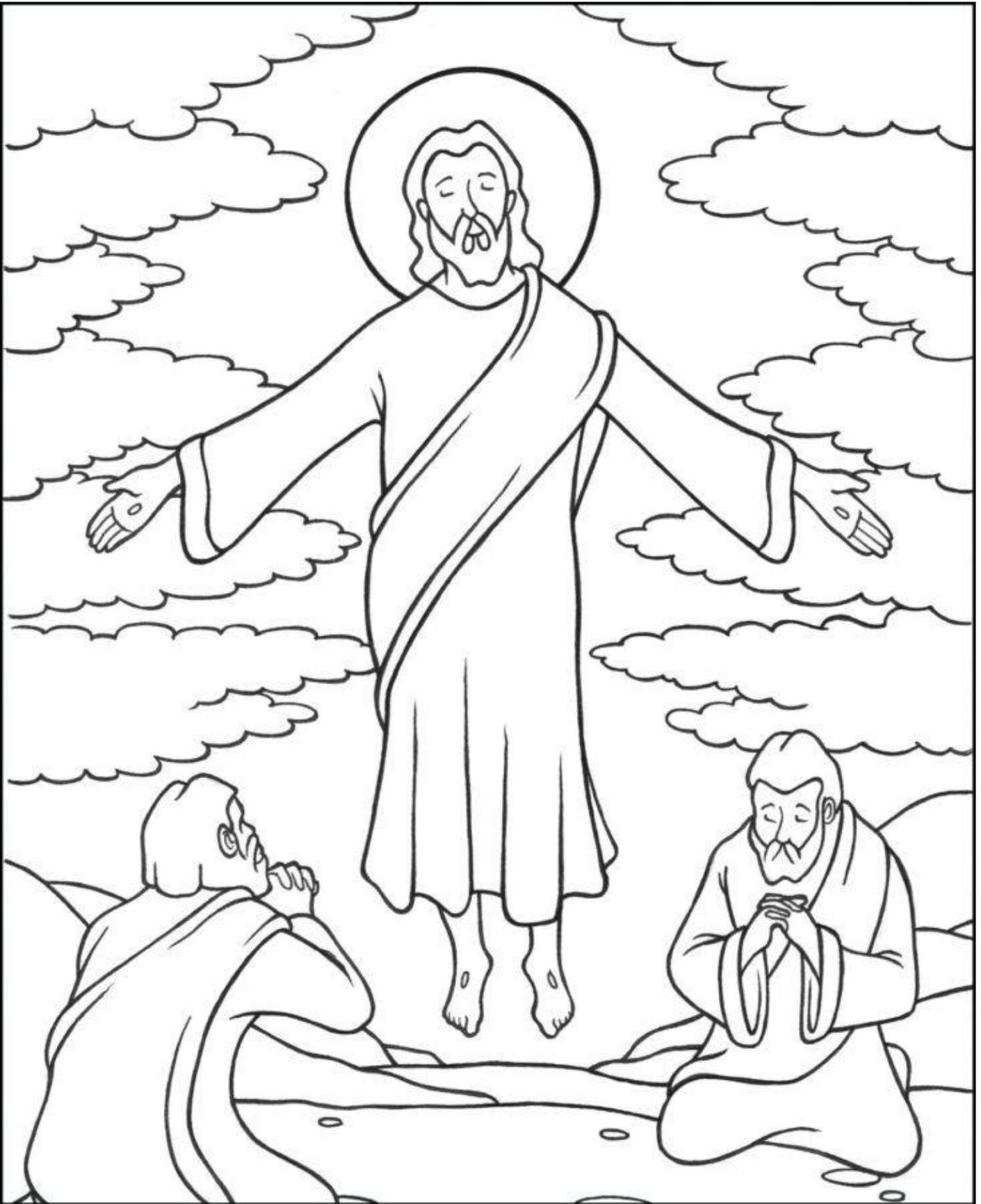
Jesus

Ascension



Jesus' Ascension

SaintAnnesHelper.com



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