

Feast of the Ascension

Children's Prayer Ritual

Go And Live The Gospel



Please Note:

Elements of this Prayer Ritual may be integrated into a Eucharistic Liturgy or Liturgy of the Word or adapted for Class Prayer.

For visual aids that may be relevant to this resource, please visit the VIDEOS and/or IMAGES menus on www.liturgyritualprayer.com

Preparation: *Before the liturgy have a number of "mission" cards ready, one for each person present. On each card write - Your mission: Be a person of peace. (or justice, compassion, kindness, understanding, cheerfulness etc). Place them in a basket, or several if there are a lot of children present. These will be given out at the end of the homily.*

Welcome & Introduction:

Leader: Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus. Before Jesus returned to his Father, he gave his apostles the task of taking his message to people everywhere. He wanted them to be active disciples who preached the gospel through example. As followers of Jesus, we have been given the same mission.

Gathering Hymn:

In the Footsteps of Jesus (Andrew Chinn – Many Roads, One Journey) **OR**
To the Glory of God (Monica Brown – Holy Ground)

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.
Gracious and loving God, through your Son Jesus, you show us how to be examples of the gospel message. You teach us how to be people of compassion, people of peace and people of justice. May we walk forward in Jesus' footsteps, following his example by being faithful disciples who only want to do your will. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son.

All: Amen.

Reading: Acts 1: 1-11 *Jesus returns to his Father.*

Response to Readings:

- Have the children sit very still and quiet. Play some quiet background music.
- In a quiet voice say, 'Jesus said, "Take my message to all you meet." What is Jesus' message for you? *(A few moments of reflection time.)*
- How can you live out Jesus' message in your life? *(A few moments of reflection time.)*
- How is Jesus asking you to treat others? *(A few moments of reflection time.)*
- What is the goodness and value in you that Jesus sees? *(A few moments of reflection time.)*
- Ask Jesus to help you to become a true follower of his by being a person who lives out his message. *(A few moments of reflection time.)*
- *Pass around the basket with the cards in it and ask each child to take one. The message on the card is an example of how each person can live out the gospel message in a particular way. e.g. Be a person of kindness.*
- Suggest to the children that they take their special mission written on their cards and try to live it out each day.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Leader: Gracious and ever-present God, we bring our prayers before you knowing that you are always listening to us.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis ...that he may continue to be a just, compassionate and wise leader. *(pause)* In faith and trust we pray, Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our church leaders...that they may be living examples of commitment and service to others. *(pause)* In faith and trust we pray, Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our community ...that we may be witnesses of your message of peace and love by the way we live our lives. *(pause)* In faith and trust we pray, Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for ourselves... that we may go forth with courage and faith and take Jesus' message to all we meet. *(pause)* In faith and trust we pray, Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God who gives us strength, hear the prayers we pray with faithful and loving hearts. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Final Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

As we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, loving God, open our eyes to see how we can live out the mission we have been given. Give us the courage we need to be your faithful children willing to share your message by being a living example of your Word.

We ask this in Jesus' name.
All: Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go forth in trust knowing that God walks with us.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn:

Till the End of Time (M. Mangan – Saints and Celebrations) OR
Come and Follow Me (J. Burland – Alive in Christ 2)

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