

The Ascension of Christ

1513

[Hans Süss von Kulmbach](#)



The Ascension of Jesus

Before Jesus returned to his Father, he promised his disciples that he would send them the Holy Spirit to enable them to continue to spread the Easter message and be his witnesses. In the Acts of the Apostles account of what happened after the Resurrection; the writer describes Jesus' return to his Father in symbolic language.

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 Judaea 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus.

Acts 1: 6-14

The disciples, Mary and the women gathered together in Jerusalem to wait in prayer in the upper room for the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was coming up to the Jewish feast of Pentecost or Shavuot, that is the harvest festival. There were many people in Jerusalem at this time.

Activity Choice

You can choose which of the following tasks you complete in relation to the Ascension of Jesus.

1. Complete the work guide (see the next page) which asks you to analyse the painting 'The Ascension of Christ' by [Hans Süß von Kulmbach](#).

Or

2. Use the painting 'The Ascension of Christ' by [Hans Süß von Kulmbach](#) and the text to create your own piece of artwork about Jesus' ascent into Heaven. Think carefully about the symbolism that you could include in your work. You may want to look at the questions on the work guide (task 1) to prompt your thinking. You could also research other pieces of artwork on this subject for inspiration.

Who do you think the woman in blue is? What makes you think this?

Why do you think the artist chose to only paint the feet of the figure at the top of the painting? Who do these feet belong to? What makes you think this?

Why do you think the figure at the top of the painting is wearing red?

The Ascension of Christ

1513

[Hans Süss von Kulmbach](#)



Do you like this piece of artwork? Why? Why not?

Who do you think the people gathered around the feet are? What makes you think this?

Are there any links that you can make between what you see in the painting and other stories from the Bible or events that occur in church?