



BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: HERE'S WHAT I SAW WHEN I RAN AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

When you walk or run, you notice more than when you're riding in a car. Last week, I was huffing and puffing down Prospect Blvd. when I passed this Catholic Church. The name would have made the Apostle Paul happy. Why? Because it zeros in on an important and overlooked stage in the career of our Saving King. Let me explain.

In our tradition we make much of the cross and resurrection (no problem there), but we can easily let the Ascension fall into the background. That's why I like this picture, because it makes the Ascension front and center. What is the Ascension? It's when Jesus was "carried up to heaven" (Luke 24:50). And his soaring up is more than just a "he-had-to-go-somewhere-before-coming-back-someday." No, it has real significance that we'll explore. But first, let's worship the One who has been "exalted above the heavens" (Heb. 7:26).



Psa. 98:6 *With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!*

If you don't have an instrument handy (like our brother **Sam King** on Easter), your voice will do just fine. Here's a hymn with a strong Ascension theme. It's called "**At the Name of Jesus.**" If you're more of a "contemporary cat" when it comes to worship music, try "**We Fall Down**" by Chris Tomlin. Just Google it.



Verse 1

*A hymn of glory let us sing
New hymns throughout the world shall ring
By a new way none ever trod
Christ takes His place on the throne of God
Alleluia alleluia*

Verse 2

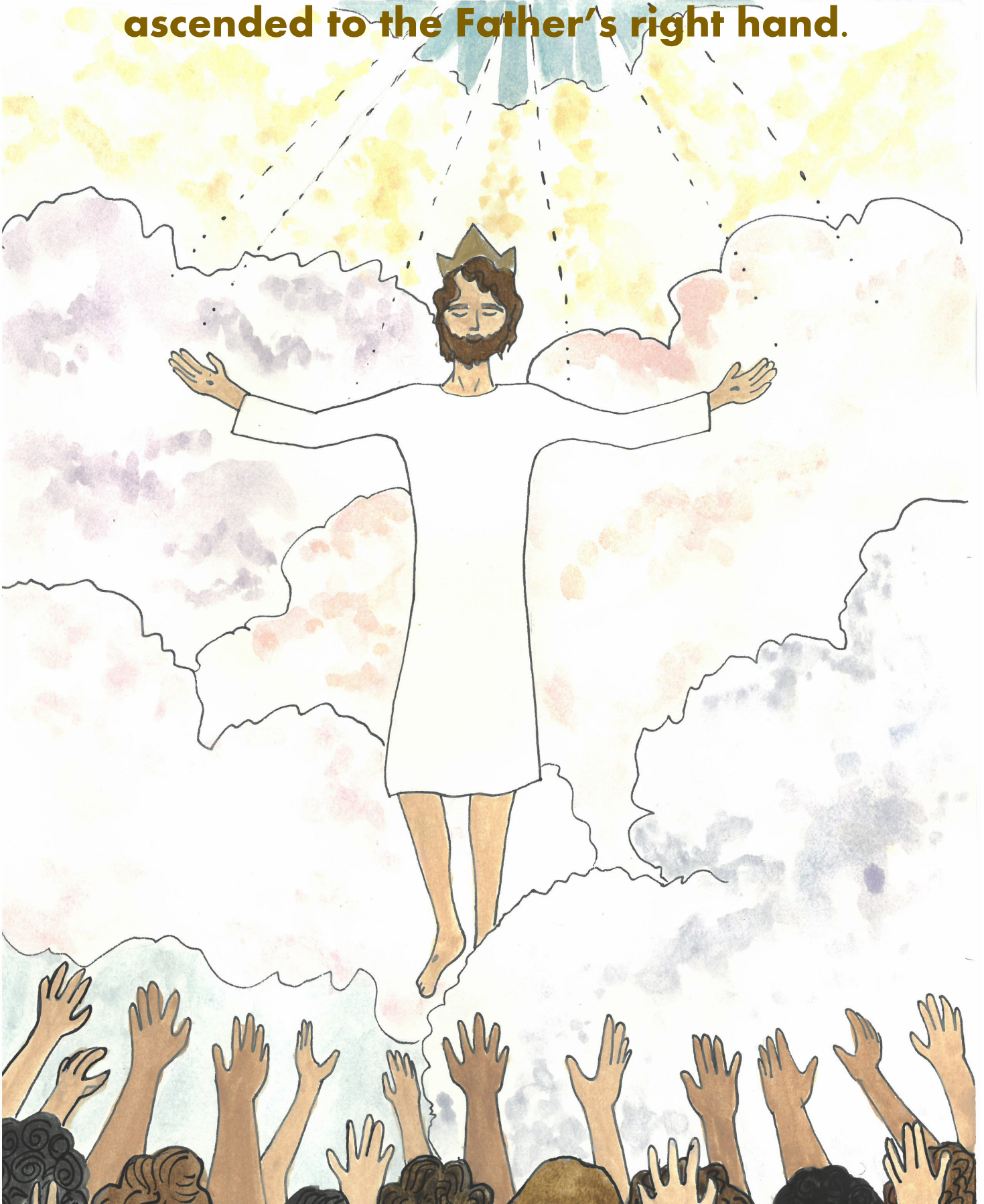
*You are a present joy O Lord
You will be ever our reward
And great the light in You we see
When you come to reign eternally
Alleluia alleluia*

Verse 3

*O risen Christ ascended Lord
All praise to You let earth accord
Who are while endless ages run*

*With Father and with Spirit One
Amen amen*

Gospel Event #8: Jesus the Saving King ascended to the Father's right hand.



BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: GOD IS FULL OF SURPRISES.

The Ascension is told twice by Luke, once at the end of his Gospel and once in the beginning of Acts. Here is the version from Luke.

Luke 24:50 *And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.*

Luke 24:51 *While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.*

Luke 24:52 *And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,*

Luke 24:53 *and were continually in the temple blessing God.*

Flip or scroll to the previous page and look again at Kierra's drawing. Put yourself back in time and into the scene. Imagine your own hands raised like **Georgia's** as you witness this magnificent event in our Lord's life. Also, think about how unimaginable this moment would have been had you been among the women who watched Jesus being crucified and buried. Then tell God that you expect many more surprises when you're facing desperate circumstances.



BETWEEN 12:00 PM—3:00 PM: WE KNOW WHAT HE DID, BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Some scholars argue that Jesus' enthronement in heaven is the high point of Jesus' career. In this event, God appoints Jesus as his "uber-exalted" Son who has been given the name that is above every name (Phil. 2:9). This is by no means to minimize the cross or resurrection. But this event shows that Jesus is presently reigning and thus deserving of our joyful, obedient loyalty, and not just thin "acceptance." The Ascension is an enthronement; because Jesus is the King and deserves our everything. How do you respond to this?

BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the AFTERNOON Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.



BETWEEN 5:00 PM—7:00 PM: "IF THE SHIRT FITS..."

Peter's shirt caught our attention last week in Joel Moment. It has Psalm 103:12 on it.

Psa. 103:12 *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

There's a wide gap between our moral smashups and our new selves. That's a cause for relief and celebration. You might read this verse five times slowly to let the words sink into the places where you still feel sorrow and regret.

BETWEEN 7:00 PM—8:00 PM: Join the EVENING Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.

BETWEEN 8:00 PM—10:00 PM: Shut it down for the night. Here's a verse from "An Evening Hymn," and it even has a royal theme, in accordance with the Ascension we've been talking about: "All praise to You, my God, this night,/For all the blessings of the light./Keep me, O keep me, King of Kings,/Beneath the shelter of Your wings."



3:00 PM and 7:00 PM Prayer Gatherings

PETER GRILLI at 3:00 PM and **RALPH BYRD** at 7:00 PM [*They'll read the Ascension story from Acts.*]



Acts 1:6 *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

Acts 1:7 *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 1:9 *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

Acts 1:10 *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,*

Acts 1:11 *and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

KURT JONES [*Our lead pastor is not the greatest Corn Hole player in the world, but he hits the mark in genuinely loving the Lord and caring for his Church. He'll help to think about the Ascension.*]



GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (6 min.): Let's shake things up a little. Let's start our group prayer by having a volunteer read the Apostle's Creed, which mentions the Ascension as a key event in our Savior's life.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (6 min.): We're not Anglicans, but let's take another formal prayer — this one for peace — and pray it as a group. Someone can volunteer to read it slowly. Then add on your own prayers for peace.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #4 (6 min.): Pray with faith-filled abandon about needs, concerns, worries and challenges that you, our church and our nation are facing.