

Ascension Sunday, June 1, 2025

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

At his ascension our Lord entered heaven, and he keeps the door open for humanity to enter. —Oswald Chambers

The Apostles' Creed, in summarizing the teachings of the apostles, identifies Christ's ascension as a key part of this little statement of faith: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who ... was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead; *he ascended into heaven*, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty" (emphasis added). The expression is also repeated in the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed, as well as others. For Christians, it would seem, the ascension of Christ is an important aspect of our faith. But why? And what does it mean for us today?

For the disciples, the moment was both awe-inspiring and bittersweet. The disciples watch as Jesus is "taken up," disappearing from sight, leaving them with a promise and a command. He assures them they will receive power through the Holy Spirit and charges them to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth."

In other words, this is the "hand-off" moment that marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and the beginning of the disciples' mission. Until now, Jesus had done all the heavy lifting. Henceforth, it was up to the apostles, and now is up to us! Their mission, as is ours, would be to spread the message of hope, love and salvation to all people.

As we celebrate this event, we are reminded that *our faith is not passive*. Sometimes, we may feel inadequate, just as the disciples must have felt as they watched Jesus leave. Yet, he assures us that the Holy Spirit will empower us.

Ascension Sunday not only reminds us that we are empowered to do God's work in the world, but that we are called *to live with hope*. The angels told the disciples that Jesus would return (v. 11). So, we live in the hope of Christ's return. This hope, in turn, compels us to live faithfully, knowing that our daily lives reflect his kingdom here on earth, even as we await its fullness.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you gave the disciples a task. You have given me a task. Give me also the power and love to bring it to completion. In your name. Amen.

HERD, HORDE AND HUDDLE

Collective nouns are words that are given to groups of animals. That's why we refer to kittens as a "**litter** of kittens." The words in the title above are collective nouns: a **herd** of goats, a **horde** of gnats and a **huddle** of penguins. **Match the GROUP NAMES in Chart B to the ANIMALS in Chart A.** (We did "Flamingoes" for you as an example.) Answers below.

CHART A : The Animals

Clams		Flamingoes	A	Raccoons		Turkeys	
Coyotes		Foxes		Prairie dogs		Vultures	
Crows		Geese		Porcupines		Zebras	
Dolphins		Grouse		Owls		Wolves	
Eagles		Hawks (flying)		Hyenas		Whales	

CHART B: The Collective Nouns

A. Stand	I. Bed	Q. Gaze
B. Pack	J. Prickle	R. Murder
C. Rafter	K. Pod	S. Covey
D. Convocation	L. Zeal	T. Gaggle
E. Coterie	M. Skulk	
F. Venue	N. Parliament	
G. Cackle	O. School	
H. Kettle	P. Band	



What do you call a
group of frogs?

(an army, colony or knot of frogs?)

ANSWERS: A=Flamingoes; B=Wolves; C=Turkeys; D=Eagles; E=Prairie dogs; F=Vultures; G=Hyenas; H=Hawks; I=Clams; J=Porcupines; K=Dolphins; L=Zebras; M=Foxes; N=Owls; O=Whales; P=Coyotes; Q=Raccoons; R=Crows; S=Grouse; T=Geese. **FROGS:** An army

Daily Bible Readings — Sunday: John 4-6; **Monday:** 1 Kings 17-19; **Tuesday:** 1 Kings 20-22; **Wednesday:** 2 Kings 1-3; **Thursday:** 2 Kings 4-6; **Friday:** 2 Kings 7-10; **Saturday:** Psalms 55-57