# MARCH: HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY. FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

**WORKSHEET 1**

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God our Father, help us to always choose your path for our lives. We are so excited to live with you forever in heaven. Amen.

**Information:**

* At the end of our life, we will meet Jesus with nothing. We will be completely naked, alone, and with no money or possessions. This is called our particular judgement. He will judge our life to see if we will go to heaven (or purgatory – remember purgatory only leads to heaven), or hell.
* Our actions on earth will determine where we go. We can’t count on 2nd chances after death. We need to practice receiving God’s mercy on earth if we want to receive it in heaven.
* Don’t think of Jesus sitting there with a list of our actions, good and bad, weighing each other out.
* Rather think of Jesus sitting there asking you, “you didn’t want to spend any time with me on earth. Why do you want to spend forever with me in heaven?”
* Jesus gave us two basic commandments: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.

**Bible verses (all are short):**

* **Ephesians 5: 1-5** Be imitators of God and live in love…no person with impurity, greed, immorality, obscenity, silly or suggestive talk…has any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Instead give thanks.
* **Titus 3:1-8** Be obedient, slander no one, be peaceable, considerate. We once were foolish, deluded, slaves to various desires and pleasures, hateful ourselves and hating one another.
* **James 1: 22; 26** Be doers of the word and not hearers only; If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, his religion is in vain.
* **Luke 6:37-38** Stop judging and you will not be judge. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you.
* **Matthew 7:1-5** Do not tell your brother to get the speck out of his eye when you have plank in your own eye. Remove your plank first.
* **John 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be save through him. Whoever believes will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
* **Psalm 1** Happy are those who do not follow the way of the wicked. The Lord watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

**Discussion (go over what is age appropriate):**

* Let us go over the experiences of two people who had near-death experiences and were resuscitated – medically brought back to life quickly after their heart stopped beating. These experiences are miracles.
* One night in March 2017, Priscilla McGill walked to a market to buy a soda. She finished the errand, visited with some folks and decided that it was time to head back home. As she crossed the street, she dropped her soda in the road. She bent down, grabbed it and that's about the last thing she recalls before being hit by a vehicle. It was a momentous turning point in her life. She was taken to the hospital with crushed knees, broken ribs, injuries to her hip, her femur, internal injuries, multiple cuts. She spent months in the hospital during which she "coded" -- lost consciousness when her heart stopped beating -- seven times. Priscilla recalls vivid experiences during those times in which she saw people she knew, including her mother, as well as fields, bright flowers, lavish settings, and a heavenly "mother" figure who told her she could not stay. In fact, the figure said, she would have to go back to the living. She said, "I was on a ventilator for a long time, I couldn't talk, but I wasn't scared." Priscilla insists she'd been shown what death would be like and that it wasn't a terrible thing at all. It just wasn't her time. Today, she believes it's her duty to testify for God, to bring people closer to God. "I feel like that I need to tell people, you know: Is your heart right?"
* A group of people standing together

  Description automatically generated with low confidenceThat's a feeling to which Ronnie Reagan can relate. As a young man growing up in East Tennessee, he'd lived a rough life, one that included repeated crime and violence fueled by sin, drugs and alcohol. At age 25, a fight almost ended his life outside a liquor store. "I hit him and knocked him down," he recalled, describing an adversary. "He broke a bottle and started stabbing me. In just minutes, I was bleeding to death." For Ronnie, the nightmare was just beginning. In the ambulance, he could feel his body floating above the stretcher and yet he knew intellectually that his body was still on the stretcher. "It was like I was passing through the open mouth of an active volcano or a burning lake," he recalled. He saw the faces of people he knew -- people who were dead. They told him, "Ronnie, don't come here, there's no escape. I began to hear screams of people all around me...crying and wailing" "My body jerked like I'd been electrocuted," he recalled. What he'd seen sure looked like Hell. After he recovered, Ronnie repented and dedicated his life to helping save others. He’s been on multiple mission trips and has been sharing his story ever since across multiple cities, states, and nations. For Ronnie, the near-death experience was "a gift from God" because he realized his sins and changed his life. He is now living for heaven. On the right is a picture of him on a mission trip.

**Questions:**

* Compare the two stories.
* **Do you think Priscilla thought that she was about to die? Does anyone know when they will die?**
* **What do you think Priscilla saw? Heaven or Hell?**
* **Who do you think the heavenly “mother” figure was?**
* **Would you like an experience like Priscilla’s at the end of your life?**
* **How did Priscilla’s life change after her experience?**
* **How would you respond to Priscilla’s question? Is your heart right?**
* **Do you think Ronnie thought that he was about to die?**
* **Was Ronnie living his life in preparation for heaven or hell?**
* **What do you think Ronnie saw? Heaven or Hell?**
* **Would you like an experience like Ronnie’s at the end of your life?**
* **How did Ronnie’s life change after his experience?**
* **Give examples of actions in life that would be living in preparation for hell.**
* **Give examples of actions in life that would be living in preparation for heaven.**
* **How can you change your life to bring more heaven preparation actions into your life?**
* **When you die and stand before Jesus, if he asks you “why should I let you into heaven?” what will you say?**
* **How can you love the Lord your God with more of your heart, soul, and strength?**
* **How can you love your neighbor more as you love yourself?**

**Closing Prayer: Pray the Creed together. Saint\_\_\_\_\_\_, pray for us!**

# MARCH: HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY. FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

**WORKSHEET 2**

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Jesus, we pray you come again quickly! We are ready for you, and waiting for you to sweep us up in your love. Help us be prepared. Amen.

**Information:**

* Jesus will come again at the end of the world and everyone will either go to heaven or hell. No one will be living on the earth anymore.
* This will be an exciting and joyous time for everyone who loves Jesus! It will be a sad and scary time for everyone who chooses to live life away from Jesus.
* No one knows when this will happen, even though people say they do, they are wrong.
* There will be a new heaven and a new earth that will be united, and everything will be perfect!
* We must love God and our neighbors, as Jesus commanded us. It is important to note that you can love people you don’t like. Give some examples of how you can do this?

**Bible verses:**

* **Matthew 25:31-46** The separation of the goats (evil) and the sheep (good). The difference will be whether you performed the corporal works of mercy “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me…whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
* **Matthew 10:42** “whoever gives only a cup of cold water…amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”
* **Luke 10:29-37** The story of the Good Samaritan. A man was beaten and left to die. A priest rode past without helping. A Levite (higher priest) also rode by without helping. Finally a Samaritan (lowly person) stopped to help. This man is truly the one who loved his neighbor and had a reward in heaven.

**Discussion points (make it your own and go as in-depth as age permits):**

**Older**

* In North Dakota, a couple years ago, a young man demonstrated these virtues that Jesus talks about in Matthew 25 to the extreme. Sam Traut just graduated from college and was an engineer. He went to Mass everyday, prayed everyday, led his friends in Bible study, and was willing to help anyone that needed it. He respected and loved everyone, and was described as “really on fire for his faith.” Everyday of his life he lived as a sheep that Jesus describes in Matthew 25. One night he was up late at midnight and there was a knock at the door. He answered and saw a sweaty and weary looking man named Ashley asking for a glass of water. Sam left Ashley at the door and went to the kitchen to get him a cup of water. As Sam came back with the cup of water, Ashley found a hammer and killed Sam with it. It turns out that Ashley was high on drugs and had just killed another man. He was really thirsty, so genuinely asked for water, but thought that Sam saw something on the news asking for Ashley’s arrest, so he killed him too to avoid arrest. Sam was mourned as a hero and a martyr for his deed. He truly accomplished “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” In Matthew 10:42 Jesus also says, “whoever gives only a cup of cold water…amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.” By his actions and death, Sam earned tremendous rewards in heaven. While people were sad that Sam was gone, they knew his life and death was a testament to Jesus’ love for us. He gave his life for an unworthy man, just as Jesus gave His life for all of us who are unworthy. Here’s a picture of Sam.
* **What stands out to you about this story?**
* **Would you be willing to stand up and die for your faith like Sam (not this exact scenario, but just general martyr)? Or would you deny Christ?**
* **No one knows when you will die, or when Jesus will come. What does that mean about your preparation for death?**
* **You will live how you die. Sam didn’t just live his faith the last day of his life, but everyday. It is important for us to do too. How do you live your faith everyday of your life?**
* **How can you live your faith everyday better?**
* **Sam’s life ended earlier than people expected, but do you think he is happier in heaven than he was on earth?**

**Older and Middle**

* A man once saw a woman sweeping the floor of the Church. He knew she was a holy woman, so he asked her, if you knew you would die tomorrow, what would you do? She answered, “I’d keep doing what I’m doing, because I always try to do God’s will everyday, and if I do that, I will go right to heaven!”
* **Can you say the same thing about your own life?**
* **How would you answer the man’s question?**
* **What needs to change?**

**Middle and Young**

* **Go over Matthew 25:31-46 and the corporal works of mercy. Have the children color, cut & paste, and match the work of mercy to the correct picture.**
* **Do the corporal works of mercy worksheet with the children.**

**Everyone**

* Choose a work of mercy you can do as a family. Maybe pick one a month and do it. Get creative! (if you can’t visit, write a note; if you can’t bury the dead, go to the cemetery and pray for them, etc.)

**Closing Prayer: Pray the Creed together. Saint\_\_\_\_\_\_, pray for us!**

**Diagram

Description automatically generated with low confidence**