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

**CLASSROOM SHEET**

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Thank you for opening the gates of heaven for all of us. Help me to live so that I may enter heaven when I die. Amen.

**Bible verses:**

* John 20:11-18 – The appearance to Mary Magdalene
* Matthew 28:18-20 – The last thing Jesus says on earth, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”
* Acts 1:8-11 – You will receive the Holy Spirit and will be my witnesses. Then he was going up, and an angel said he will return the same way he left.

**Information:**

* After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent 40 days on earth.
* During this time he appeared to many of his friends, walked, talked, and ate with them, yet still had the holes in his hands, feet, and side from the nails and his piercing.
* Jesus had a glorified body. It was more than our normal bodies but is what we will have in heaven.
* After these 40 days, he ascended into heaven. Ascended means he took himself up to heaven. He could do this because he is God. He did this so he wouldn’t be limited by his body on earth, and to prepare a place for us in heaven.
* Jesus went up body and soul to heaven, but he is still with us on earth. His soul is always with us – and in us, and his body is with us in the Eucharist.
* Jesus sent the Holy Spirit (the third person of God) to help us after he left earth.
* Jesus will come back one day, the same way he ascended.

**Discussion points (make it your own & use as age appropriate):**

* **Why did Jesus have to leave earth? Why do you think?**
* Let us take a look at the Bible and see why Jesus had to leave.
* **(have the kids act it out for fun!) John 20:11-18** -Mary Magdalene (an emotional wreck at this point) is at the tomb weeping because Jesus isn’t there. Someone took his body is what she thinks. She turns and sees Jesus, but doesn’t recognize him. Through sobs she asks where Jesus’ body is so she can go get it and carry it back (it’d be way too heavy for her anyway). Jesus says one word, (what is it?) and Mary recognizes him. She grabs his feet. Jesus says let go of me, I have to return to my father and your father, to my God and your God.
* Why does Jesus say let go of me?
	+ Mary is grasping to his humanity. Jesus had to leave or else we too would always grasp to his humanity. We would view him as “just a normal guy” and would be prone to viewing him only as a human and forgetting his divinity- that he is also God.
* Jesus had to leave so we could recognize he is God and to sit at God’s right hand and be our mediator, or go-between for us and God. Since Jesus took on a human body yet is also God, he is the perfect mediator.
* **What now? What do we do now?**
* Jesus has given us all a mission! **Matthew 28:18-20** This is no optional, it is a command for everyone!
	+ Jesus tells us to “Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the age.”
	+ Jesus also sends us his Holy Spirit. This he gives us in Baptism and Confirmation, so his spirit is within us and works in us if we let him.
	+ Did you know you can baptize people in an emergency? All you need to do is get water, pour it over the person’s head, and say “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

**Young, Middle, Older:**

* Jesus called all of us to be missionaries! Plan your mission! It can be out in the wide world or a mission of prayer at home.
* Help the children plan their mission. Ask questions age appropriate. Some examples:
	+ What country?
	+ What language?
	+ How long?
	+ What group of people? (families, college students, adults, elderly, children, prisoners, military, rich or poor)
	+ In the cities, jungle, or rural areas?
	+ Who will go with you, as a priest or religious or lay person, what will be the dangers, etc.
	+ Did you know you can be a missionary from your own home? All you need to do is pray for specific people, and the Holy Spirit will do the work!
	+ What prayer do you want to say? Pray it everyday.
	+ What group of people do you want to pray for? (celebrities, poor, persecuted Christians, addicts, prisoners, politicians, people with no faith, starving people, all doctors, Bishops and priests, the unborn, the handicapped, soldiers, elderly, rest home residents, sick, etc.?) Everyone needs prayers!
	+ In what country? Even our own!

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