

# The Ascension

## Story for Children's Service at St Nicolas

[Acts 1]

5 May 2024

St Nicolas Church,  
Forest Hill with Shotover



## The Ascension

LUKE (Narrator) THEOPHILUS, PETER, JAMES, JOHN, JESUS + 2 OTHER DISCIPLES (non-speaking).

*(LUKE in the Pulpit, THEOPHILUS in front of the Font, everyone else by the Lady Altar)*

LUKE: My name is Luke. I love writing, and for my great friend Theophilus I wrote a whole book. Later on, it was called the Gospel according to Luke. It was all about the birth, life, death and resurrection of the man Jesus of Nazareth. Then I wrote another book for my friend Theophilus, about all the things that the followers of Jesus did after he was crucified and rose from the dead. I called this book 'The Acts of the Apostles'.

THEOPHILUS: Please tell me, Luke, what does 'The Acts of the Apostles' mean?

LUKE: Acts are all the things that people did.

THEOPHILUS: But what are 'Apostles'?

LUKE: The Apostles is the name we give to the followers of Jesus who carried on with his teachings after he died and rose again. We are going to hear the story that I wrote in the first chapter of my book. Here comes Peter, with James and John.

*(THEOPHILUS sit in the congregation. PETER, JAMES, JOHN walk in, and stop in front of the Chancel step)*

PETER: James, John, you both know that after Jesus was crucified, I was really upset! I couldn't forget that, when Jesus was on trial, I said I hadn't even MET him! But after Jesus rose from the dead, we saw him alive again and he spoke to me. He asked me if I loved him, and he told me to feed his sheep. Now I know that he has forgiven me! Look here is Jesus now.

*(JESUS joins them)*

JESUS: Peace be with you, Peter, James, John, my friends. I want you all to stay here in Jerusalem and not go back to your homes.

PETER: Jesus, are you going to free us from these Roman rulers? Are you going to set up your own kingdom here in our country NOW?

JESUS: It is not for you to know the answer to these questions. Now listen, I have to go back to my Father in heaven, but don't be sad. You must wait here until the Holy Spirit comes to you with power. Then you will be able to tell the people here in Jerusalem, and everywhere else, all about me. Now, let us go together to the Mount of Olives.

*(All walk round via the North Aisle, ending up by the Font. JESUS only go on into the Chancel. PETER, JAMES, and JOHN stand still by the Font, AND STARE UPWARDS INTENTLY towards the Chancel.)*

JOHN: Look! What is happening to Jesus?

PETER: He is being taken from us and returned to heaven. Watch! Now he is covered by a cloud!

JAMES: He is lost from our sight! Has Jesus gone? Will he come back to us?

LUKE: As they were looking up, suddenly two men in white robes were standing by them and they said "Friends, why are you looking up into the sky? You have seen the ASCENSION of Jesus! This Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will, one day, come back in the same way as you have seen him go."

Peter, James, and John returned to Jerusalem and went to join the other followers of Jesus, who were staying together in the same house.

*PETER, JAMES, JOHN, + 2 OTHER DISCIPLES walk to stand at the front of the Chancel with Peter in the middle.*

PETER: Friends, before Jesus was taken up to heaven, he told us to stay here in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes to us with power. We are praying for that to happen soon.

Jesus chose 12 of us to be his disciples, but Judas has left us because he betrayed Jesus, so now we are only 11. God is telling us through prophecy that we need to choose a replacement.

JOHN: There are only two people who have been here ever since we first met Jesus. We must choose between Joseph and Matthias!

JAMES: But how will we choose?

PETER: We will ask Joseph and Matthias to draw lots, and God will choose.

JOHN: Here is a bunch of straws. Joseph and Matthias must each pull one out. The one who takes the short straw is the one who is chosen.

*Peter offer the straws (tell Matthias beforehand which to pull out).*

PETER: Who has the short straw? *(hold up straws)* It is Matthias! The Lord has chosen Matthias to join us. Now we must all wait here in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes to us with power.

LUKE: So now there were 12 apostles [*Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, Jacob son of Alphaeus, Simon (the Canaanite), Jude and Matthias*]. It was an anxious time! They all stayed in one place and prayed and waited, prayed and waited....

All of this I wrote in my book, 'The Acts of the Apostles', so that my friend Theophilus would know everything that happened.