

— John 20.11-17 —
Ascension Sunday 2022
“Say to My Brethren, ‘I Ascend!’”

Jn 20¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her: “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

* **Why would** Jesus say such a thing?

* **The disciples** had been introduced to the basic concept and coming reality of Christ’s ascension, but they did not get its

_____.

*Jn 16²⁸ “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”
²⁹ His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech!”*

Rm 14⁹ [T]o this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

* **Rev 12 describes** Christ’s ascension as the occasion when three cosmic events occurred:

1) The one born to “_____ all nations” was “caught up to the throne of God” (5).

2) _____ and his angels were thrown out of heaven, for no place was found for them any longer (7-9).

3) Loud voices cried out in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His _____ have come” (10).

Rv 12⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ... ⁷ And ... the dragon and his angels ... ⁸ ... [no] place [was] found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come”

* **Dn 7 describes** Christ’s ascension as the occasion when the “Son of Man ... came to the Ancient of Days,” and “to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should _____ Him.”

*Dn 7¹³ [B]ehold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days ...
¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

* **We should not** be surprised that the apostle John, in his opening greeting in the Book of Revelation, calls Jesus “the _____ over the kings of the earth.”

Rv 1⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace ... ⁵ ... from Jesus Christ, ... the ruler over the kings of the earth.

* **1Cor 15** gives an overview of Christ's _____.

1Cor 15²⁰ [Now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ...²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death ...²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

* **How does all** of this apply to us today?

– When the disciples failed to understand the significance of Christ's ascension, they were confused, defeated, _____, and scattered.

– Like Mary, they were _____ with a resurrected but un-ascended Christ. Christ said in response, "Do not _____ to me."

– The message Christ gave to cure the disciples was, "I _____."