

## Ascension Day? Why do we celebrate that Jesus is gone?

Jesus lived more than 2000 years ago, in Roman occupied Palestine. The Israelites back then were waiting for a savior, a new king who would free them from this occupation force. Many people hoped that Jesus would do that. This is why he was executed as an insurgent by the Romans.

But then he had not remained dead, but was resurrected. He had shown up alive among his followers. And immediately, hopes started to grow again: Was now the time for an insurrection against the Romans?

No. Jesus rejected these expectations. And not only that: He suddenly disappeared in a cloud and was never seen again.

It took some time for the people around Jesus to understand this. But slowly they realized: Jesus is not simply gone, he is back with God. And that means: He is no longer visible, but he has the overview. He is now with God who created everything. God made him king over the whole world. God has completely overturned things: The powerless victim of an execution is now the mightiest of all.

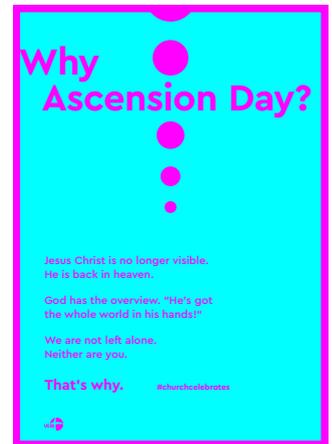
And why do we call this ascension to heaven? Because heaven is without borders. On earth it is easy to build walls and erect barbed wire fences. But clouds cannot be stopped by them: They simply move above them. Equally, the power of Jesus knows no borders now. Nothing and nobody can stop it.

This is what we believe. Even today.

That's why we celebrate Ascension Day. To tell everybody: Count on God. Hope for God. He is not visible, but present. He does not leave the world to its own devices.

And we invite you to celebrate with us!

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