

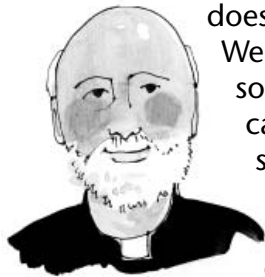
Dear Father Jim,

When Jesus ascended into heaven, where did he go? Where is his body now?

*Michele D.*

Dear Michele,

That is a wonderful question. We believe Jesus rose from the dead in his body, and bodies have to be somewhere, don't they? But like many good questions, I don't know the answer to it. And neither does anyone else.



We talk about heaven as something grand because our life on earth is so beautiful. But no one knows whether our pets will be in heaven, or whether we will breathe oxygen or have the foods we like.

Jesus' ascension into heaven shows how wonderful God thinks our bodies are. The joy of heaven will involve both being in our bodies and being with Jesus.

Some friends of Saint Paul once asked him questions like yours: “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come back?” (see 1 Corinthians 15:35).

His answer is most interesting: Paul said that Jesus’ being raised up is like a seed planted in the ground. It “dies” in order to become the plant it is to be. If you plant wheat, you get wheat. Plant tomatoes, and you get tomatoes, but it all begins in the darkness under the ground.

So, too, Paul says, we are seeds in our human bodies. In the dark about what we will become, we have faith that, in and with Jesus, it will certainly be something excellent.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Jim". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Father" and "Jim" being capitalized and prominent.

*Fr. Jim Krings is a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Write him with your own question, and if we publish it, we'll give you a free Bible!*