The Ascension of Christ
Following Christ’s resurrection, He continued to minister on earth for forty days. After that, He ascended to heaven. Details of the Ascension:

➢ It was prophesied in the Old Testament (compare Ps. 68:18 with Eph. 4:8, and Ps. 110:1 with Acts 2:34-35).
➢ It happened on the Mt. of Olives (near Bethany) when Jesus was with His disciples (Acts 1:12; Luke 24:50).
➢ Jesus went up to heaven on a cloud as the disciples watched (Acts 1:9).
➢ Following the ascension, two angels told the disciples that He would return again in the same way He left (Acts 1:10-11).

Following the Ascension, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He was exalted with glory and honor (Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9; I Pet. 3:22).

The Ministry of Christ Today
The work of Jesus today is seen in several ways:

➢ He is Head of His Body, the Church (Eph. 1:22-23).
  • He formed the Body and continues to build it (Acts 2:47; Eph. 2:20-22).
  • He directs the Body, guiding its work (Eph. 4:11-12; 5:23-24).
  • He empowers the Body, moving the church to maturity and holiness (Eph. 4:14-16; 5:26-27).
➢ He serves as our High Priest (Heb. 2:17; 4:14).
  • He is our Mediator. He represents us to God and maintains our relationship with God (I Tim. 2:5).
  • He is our Advocate. If we sin, He speaks to the Father in our defense (I John 2:1-2).
  • He is our Intercessor. He prays to the Father on our behalf (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).
➢ He is preparing a place for us in heaven (John 14:1-3).

It can be noted that in the future Christ’s ministry will also include raising the dead, judging people, rewarding believers, and ruling over the world (John 5:28-30; II Cor. 5:10; II Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19:15).