

Ascension of the Lord 2018

My beloved brothers, one of the most consistent beliefs amongst Catholics and Protestants alike, is that Jesus has departed from this earth and left us alone while He is Seated at the Right Hand of the Father. Although St. Luke reminds us that Jesus has ascended to the Father, body, blood, soul and divinity; He has not left us, rather, He has ascended into Glory and brought us with Him in His mystical Body. For you cannot separate the Head from the Body. The Ascension of Jesus is not an ethereal dissipation in which He is now a spook, a ghost; rather, He ascends to the Father in His rightful Glory to bring us with Him into the very heart of the mystery of God. In Jesus, we are already living in Heaven with Him, even while we struggle to allow Him to change our lives, to conform ourselves to Him! His Ascension is the establishment of His Divine Kingdom, which is absolute and unshakeable, because God is absolute and unshakeable. It is His Divine Triumph, but it is also our Triumph as well!

Whereas earthly kings remain always vulnerable, because, if their kingdoms are not usurped, they will end by mortality and time; Christ's rule and reign will never end. He is the Lamb who was slain, but now lives forever, and because He cannot be usurped, His Church will never be destroyed. He is the everlasting King, made so by God, "raising Him from the dead, and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens, so far above every principality, authority, power and dominion and any other name that can be named!" If we remain faithful with Him, we also reign with Him, and He is already our victory over sin and death.

However, in the Ascension, Christ's presence on the earth continues, in the Church, in the Sacraments, in the Divine Word, and in the Holy Spirit, by which, Jesus, true God and true man, remain the everlasting bridge between heaven and earth, between ourselves and our God! There is now, no longer any barrier between ourselves and the Living God, the Veil has been torn in two! There is now, no longer any barrier between Mercy and ourselves, for God in Jesus is the Merciful One, who reigns in Mercy! That is why each of us has been given the mission of preaching the Gospel, the Good News, because He desires to extend His mercy to every man and woman throughout time until He comes again.

Today, when you receive Holy Communion, realize that it is Christ the Divine Lord that renews His Divine Pledge of Love within you. Renew your firm belief that: “Behold, I will be with you all days, even until the end of time!” This is our hope and our glory! Amen!