

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

When, What, Where, Why?

I WHEN?

Acts 1:1–3

II WHAT?

Luke 24:50–53

Acts 1:9–10

III WHERE TO?

Mark 16:19–20

Heb. 1:1–4

1 Peter 3:18–22

IV OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

Gen. 1:21–24

Deut. 34:5–7

2 Kings 2:9–11

V WHY?

John 14:1–7

Acts 2:32–36

Heb. 9:11–12

Eph. 1:19–23

VI SO WHERE IS HE NOW?

Heb. 8:1–2

Matt. 28:18–20

THE APOSTLES' CREED

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

THE NICENE CREED

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

BOOK OF CONCORD — FORMULA OF CONCORD, ARTICLE VIII: THE PERSON OF CHRIST

Now He has ascended to heaven, not merely as any other saint, but as the apostle testifies, above all heavens. He also truly fills all things, being present everywhere, not only as God, but also as man. He rules from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth, as the prophets predict and the apostles testify. He did this everywhere with them and confirmed their word with signs. This did not happen in an earthly way. As Dr. Luther explains, this happened according to the way things are done at God's right hand. "God's right hand" is no set place in heaven, as the Sacramentarians assert without any ground in the Holy Scriptures. It is nothing other than God's almighty power, which fills heaven and earth. Christ is installed according to His humanity (in deed and truth), without confusing or equalising the two natures in their essence and essential properties.

paragraphs 27–28

MARTIN CHEMNITZ, "ON THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST"

The expression "to sit" in this passage (Psalm 110:1; 1 Cor. 15:25) does not refer to the reclining position of the body or to the occupancy of a particular place, but to His power and to the glorious administration of His office of King, High Priest, and Messiah and to His dominion over all things. Scripture speaks in this way of Christ's session at the right hand of God so that it may show clearly that also with respect to His human nature, according to which He was crucified, dead and raised again, Christ is placed at the right hand of the majesty and power of God.

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ON CHRIST'S ASCENSION NOW I BUILD (LSB 492)

1. On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well
I know his members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.
2. Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will rest in him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.
3. Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully,
Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

Josua Wegelin (1604-40)

COLLECT FOR ASCENSION DAY

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted!