

He Ascended; Now What?

Thursday, 5/10 at 7 PM

The Ascension of Our Lord – 2018

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today is one of the **BIG FIVE**: I'm talking about Jesus' ➡birth, ➡life, ➡death, ➡resurrection, and ➡ascension!!! The very Son of God ✦entered this world as our sinless substitute; then He ✦lived without sin, ✦took away the sin of the world, ✦was raised on the 3rd day, and ✦ascended on the 40th day – *to reign over all things for the good of those who trust in Him!*

Today we focus on the Apostles' Creed, *especially the second article*, which tells us how God the Father redeemed us – *thus bought us back* – through the work of His only begotten Son!

1. **Creation:** God did it in six ordinary days, in order to establish a healthy *work—rest pattern* for us! So we believe, teach, and confess: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.** // With those words, *we are acknowledging God the Father as the creator*; however, we also know from various Bible passages (for example: [John 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:16](#)) that the Father worked *through the Son* to create, and the Holy Spirit was also part of the process ([Genesis 1:2](#)).
2. **Redemption:** God the Father bought us back through the *difficult and excruciating* work of His Son! So we believe, teach, and confess: **And in Jesus Christ, His**

only Son, our Lord; // We can say that *God the Father* is **THE LORD**, *God the Son* is **OUR LORD!**

- a. **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;** // So Mary became pregnant as God the Father took action “**by the Holy Spirit**” ([Luke 1:35](#)). Jesus is God from His Father and Man from the flesh of the Virgin Mary.
- b. **suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;** // Yes, it was under Pilate that Jesus was condemned, *but we also know two other things:* (1) The Jewish leaders twisted his arm and (2) all of it was according to God’s plan to take away the sin of the world ([Acts 2:23](#))!
- c. **He descended into hell;** // He descended – not to suffer but – *to proclaim His victory over sin, death, and the devil!*
- d. **The third day He rose again from the dead;** // **Day 1** was Good Friday; **day 2** was Holy Saturday; and **day 3** was Easter Sunday. No one took Jesus’ life from Him, *He laid it down*; then, on the third day, *God the Father made Him alive forevermore!*
- e. **He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;** // Once Jesus had ➡made it known to many people that He was – *in fact* – risen from the dead and ➡given His disciples their final instructions to go forth to baptize and teach, *then He ascended to the right hand of the Father* – where He is now reigning over all things for the good of those who trust in Him! *That truth should give us peace and joy!!*

- f. **From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.** // That day will come, *just as it has been appointed (Acts 17:31)*, so it is very important NOW for everyone – *by God’s grace and power* – to **be** sorry, **trust** in Jesus, and **continue** in Him!

3. **Sanctification**: God the Father made us holy in His sight as He worked **by** the Holy Spirit **through** Holy Baptism and His Holy Word **to** bring us to Jesus and the benefits of His finished work! So we believe, teach, and confess: **I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.** // Those words point to the importance of the Holy Spirit who dwells within those who believe; He is with us **to** teach us, then **to** empower us to live those teachings! Those words also point **to** who we are in Christ – *the Church, the one body of Christ, in true communion with each other*; **to** God’s priceless gift of forgiveness; **to** the coming resurrection of all bodies; and **to** the amazing life to come forever and ever for all who know Jesus!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, receive our sincere thanksgiving for Your very difficult work to remove our sins; then, as we know *You are reigning and we are powered by the Holy Spirit*, help us to *rejoice in our status as God’s forgiven children and go forth to share the good news with others!* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! Amen!

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