



His Word Is Truth!

Jesus' ascension, as though He left us alone until He returns again in glory. But nothing could be further from the Truth! **Jesus clearly told us that He would be with us always to the very end of the age!** (See Matthew 28:20) *The fact is that Jesus ascension is a source of great comfort for those who believe in Him.*

This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.



Today we finish the final section of the 2nd article of the Apostles' Creed, which reads: **"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."** After Jesus rose from the dead He remained on earth for 40 days and appeared to many people (see Acts 1:1-3 and 1st Corinthians 15:3-8). After this, Jesus led His disciples near Bethany where He ascended to His Father in heaven (see Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11). Many misunderstand the purpose of

First of all, Jesus' ascension means that He is actually closer to us than He ever was when He was walking with His disciples on earth. Before His ascension Jesus' body usually took up normal space and so He could only be in one place at any given time. The only exception to this before His ascension was when He gave His Body and Blood in the bread and wine during the first Lord's Supper (see Matthew 26:26-28; also 1st Corinthians 10:15-17 & 11:23-32). **However, now that Jesus is ascended He actually exists EVERYWHERE because His body now fills the whole universe!** (See **Ephesians 1:22-23 & 4:9-10**) Not only does Jesus continue to give believers special comfort when we eat and

drink His Body and Blood in the Lord's Supper. The ascended Jesus also exists EVERYWHERE! We don't see Him with our eyes, as His disciples did. But we accept by faith that He is with us because we trust His Words (see Matthew 28:20 and 1st Peter 1:8-9).

In addition, Jesus' ascension assures us that He is in control and rules over all creation. The Creed says that Jesus *"sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty."* The Book of Revelation speaks about this hope when it talks about "The Lamb" sharing the throne with "God the Father" (see Revelation 7:11-17). Even though evil often seems to have the power in this world, the Truth is that Jesus reigns! (See Colossians 1:13-20 and 1st Peter 3:22) Nothing happens apart from His will, and He works in all things (even suffering and death!) for the good of those who trust in Him (see Romans 8:28-39).

Finally, the Creed also confesses with Holy Scripture

that Jesus will return in glory *"to judge the living and the dead."* Even though we cannot see Jesus with our eyes at this time, on the Final Day every eye will see Him! (See Acts 1:11 and Revelation 1:7) Those who cling to their sin and die without faith in Jesus have no hope, for they are already condemned even while they live in unbelief (see John 3:18b, 1st Thessalonians 5:1-3 and 2nd Thessalonians 1:8-10). **However, those who confess their sins and trust in Christ do not have to fear the Final Day of Judgment. Those who believe in Christ are forgiven and holy in God's sight HERE AND NOW (see John 3:18a, Romans 8:1-4 and 2nd Corinthians 5:17-21). Those who daily confess their sins and trust in Jesus can look forward the 2nd coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ! (See Hebrews 9:28 and Revelation 22:17).**

Some people will still be alive on the day Jesus' returns in glory. This is what the Apostle Paul means when he says, *"We*

will not all sleep" (See 1st Corinthians 15:51). However, when Jesus returns in glory the bodies of all who have ever died will be resurrected and will stand before Him along with those who are living when He returns. Those who live and die trusting in Jesus have peace with God NOW and the certain FUTURE hope of eternal life with Him in the New Creation (see Romans 8:18-25, 1st Corinthians 15:51-58, 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1st Peter 1:3-9 and 2nd Peter 3:8-13).

I will conclude by sharing with you the explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed written by Martin Luther in his Small Catechism: *"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His*

innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true." **Yes! This IS most certainly true because His Word is Truth! Repent and trust in Jesus today!**



Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, July 16th! Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on the Apostles' Creed with the first part of the 3rd article: "I believe in the Holy Spirit."

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