



Midweek Meditation



“And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, which is His body.” Ephesians 1:22

Perhaps the last thing on our minds this week is that tomorrow is Ascension Day. Yet, this day in the Church Year is one we should remember and celebrate. But why? Some have the idea that our Lord walked this earth for about thirty-three years, suffered, died, rose again, and then went home; and having gone home to His Father, He leaves us to work out our faith the best we can. Like saying, “Okay, I did My part. Now the ball is in your court.” Such an absent Jesus, however, is no better than a dead Jesus. But our Lord is neither dead nor absent. He is risen. He is ascended. He rules over everything for His Church.

Jesus ascended into heaven to be with us always. Without Him, we would perish. “Apart from Me, you can do nothing.” He alone gives life to His Church, and He gives this life through His own appointed means of grace: the Word and the Sacraments. Jesus ascends and is no longer with us in the ordinary way (as He was with His disciples), so that He can be present with us in this extraordinary way – whenever we gather around His Word and Sacraments.

Jesus is not gone. We are not left to ourselves, to our brokenness, our misery, our failures. Jesus is with His Church to forgive our sins and give us life. “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” This promise is not nullified by His ascension. It is fulfilled. And what’s more, where He has gone, we shall go. For where the head goes, the body must follow.

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. Amen.