

# Pastor's Letter

**May 12, 2024—The Ascension of the Lord**

Dear Church Family,

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, which we celebrate today, is probably the most underappreciated solemnity in the church calendar. It kind of gets lost between Easter and Pentecost. Today we remember the day that Jesus Christ, forty days after his resurrection, was taken up bodily into heaven and took his place at the right hand of the Father. The meaning of this event is astonishing.

In the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel Jesus says, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself so that where I am you also may be." The Ascension is the fulfillment of Jesus promise to go and prepare a place for us.

When Jesus returns to the Father, it isn't just his divine nature that enters heaven, it's his whole self. His human body and soul are also now seated at the right hand of the Father. In a mysterious way, God has made "space" within himself for humankind. The heart of God has been opened up, like the side of Christ on the cross pierced by the lance, and we are invited in. At Christmas we celebrate the humanization of the divine. At the Ascension we celebrate the divinization of the human. These two unfathomable mysteries serve as bookends to our Lord's ministry on earth.

When Jesus was taken up into heaven the disciples watched in awe and then returned to Jerusalem with joy. May that same awe and joy fill us as we reflect on the greatness of the unimaginable gift we have received from our Lord who lived, died, rose, ascended, and will one day return to bring us home to the heart of God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

