



THE ASCENSION

Episode 3

Summary

The Ascension marks a new era in the Church: Jesus is gone. He tells Mary Magdalene, "Don't hold on to me." The time has come for Jesus to take his place at the right hand of the Father and to reign in the Heavenly Kingdom that will have no end. Our Lord does this on our behalf, to intercede for us and prepare a place for us. In Heaven, Christ permanently exercises his Priesthood and continues his fight for our souls. Heaven is on our side. Our Lord's Glorious Ascension to the Father reveals to us our ultimate destiny, yet it's a destiny we cannot reach by our own efforts. What will Heaven be like? Will we have free will? Will we recognize our loved ones? Will we grow bored? Although Jesus is gone, he does not leave us as orphans.

Scripture

"Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" - **John 20:17**

"He was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight ... 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'" - **Acts 1:9-11**

"When I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also ... no one comes to the Father, but by me." - **John 14:3-6**

Quotes

"What then was Paradise is now represented by the Church."

- **St. Augustine**

"Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place."

- **Acts 1:24**

"Father, I desire that they ... may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world." - **John 17:24**

Discussion Questions

1. *Where did the Holy Spirit move most profoundly in your heart during this episode?*
2. *Is it easy or difficult for you to contemplate Heaven? Do you think about Heaven as your goal or destiny often? When you do imagine Heaven, what are the greatest hopes, desires and longings of your heart?*
3. *How did this episode impact your understanding and appreciation of The Ascension of Our Lord?*

Resolution

Jesus never, ever stops interceding on our behalf. If you have a parent, a child, a loved one who is lost, spiritually blind, who is in need of prayer; God knows. Continue to beg Jesus, who begs the Father. Pray the Rosary daily. Don't let a decade go by without offering it up for someone in need.

