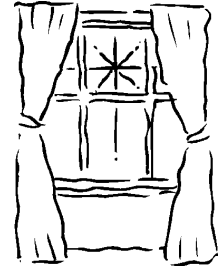


Looking Out My Window, May 6, 2024

This Thursday, May 9th., forty days after Easter, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. That calendar structure is indebted to Luke's Gospel and Acts, the only New Testament documents to narrate the story of Christ's Ascension. Luke-Acts dates the ascension forty days after the resurrection. Although, Luke and Acts alone give the accounts of Christ's ascension, the entire New Testament assumes that Christ has returned to heaven and there exists with God in bodily form (see for example Philippians 2:1-9; John 17; Ephesians 4:7-10; Heb. 7:25). There Christ prays for us (See Romans 8:34).



The Feast of the Ascension is one of seven principal feasts of the church year along with Easter Day, The Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day (Nov 1), Christmas Day (Dec 25), and The Epiphany (Jan 6). On this feast day, we celebrate Christ's ascension, his taking his place "at the right hand of the Father." This symbolic language focuses on his risen humanity being glorified and not on the arrangement of the furniture of heaven. The right hand of God expresses symbolically Jesus' sharing in God's sovereign reign over all things.

Now, in God's presence, Jesus' human experience connects us with God our Mother and Father. In Jesus' human experience, God understands and shares ours. We no longer are alone and isolated; Jesus is with us, and we are with Jesus in God's presence. Anglican vicar and peerless preacher G. A. Studdert-Kennedy wrote this poem about our presence with Jesus' before God.

Tis that weakness in strength that I cry for--my flesh
that I seek
In the Godhead. I seek it and find it. O man, it shall be
A face like my face that receives thee, a Man like to me
Thou shalt love and be loved by for ever; a hand like
this hand
Shall open the gates of New Life to thee--see the Christ stand.

[G. A. Studdert Kennedy, "Suffered Under Pontius Pilate," in *I Believe: Sermons on the Apostles' Creed* (New York: Doran, 1921), p. 21.]

Peace,

David + Priest in Charge