

The Name of our Saviour is the Name Above all Names

Thursday is the day for the Ascension of Our Lord. At Grace Lutheran Church we celebrate it on Wednesday night, because, for various reasons, that works better for us; and because, when it comes to the festivals of the Church, the day begins at sundown. This is the ancient practice of the Church of Christ; it was that already in those early days when the Church of Christ was called by the name "Israel". Today, of course, in our part of the world, the best known remnant of this practice is the observance of Christmas beginning on Christmas Eve.

Holy Scripture teaches that forty days after His resurrection, our Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven to be received back into the heavenly glory from which He had come. "After He had provided purification for sins, He has taken seat at the right hand of the Majesty on High", writes the Letter to the Hebrews. And the Apostle Paul writes that because the Son of God has suffered for the salvation of sinners, "God has highly exalted Him and bestowed upon Him the name that is above all names".

And this is worth celebrating. For it affirms that with the sufferings and death of the Son of God, who is God Himself from eternity, the price and penalty for the sin of all sinners has been paid in full, and in abundance. Well, God affirmed this already by raising Him from the dead, who died for the sin of the world. But that the name above all names has been bestowed upon Him because He has suffered and died for the salvation of sinners, that also shows us just how good God is, and how great love He has for us sinners, and how important our salvation is to Him. Even though the Son of God is God Himself from eternity, and already had the name above all names bestowed upon Him from eternity, the greatest glory even God knows to bestow upon Him is the glory of our salvation!

Nothing is greater and more important to God than our salvation. Therefore He who is God Himself from eternity came to us to suffer for us so much more than we can even begin to imagine, the judgement of His own goodness against all ungodliness and evil. And therefore, God has bestowed the name that is above all names upon Him who was brought our salvation to completion.

And now that He has taken seat at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He upholds all things in Heaven and on earth, He who has suffered for our salvation rules all things in the history of the world, and in the history of our own lives, for our salvation. How could that not be worth celebrating?