

“Servant Jesus”

Jesus, the Son of God, has ascended into heaven. The Father has glorified His Son – but you do not see His glory – what you are given to see is a poor, humble Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God, descends from heaven and takes on human flesh and blood to reveal God to you. You want to see, and know, God? Then look at Jesus – and see that God is One who comes to serve you.

When the Son of God left His heavenly throne – He did not leave His divinity behind – rather, God became man. In Jesus, you see God as He desires to be known – One who is true God and true man, to be your servant.

As your servant, Jesus humbled Himself to be born of a woman – in order to redeem you who live under the Law. This One, who is most glorious, who shares the glory of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit – wraps the towel of humanity around Himself and bends down like a servant to minister to you.

Jesus is the humble Servant. His words are not His own – but the Words of the Father who sent Him. His authority is not His own – but that which the Father has given to Him. Even the work that He does – His work of redemption (His crucifixion, suffering and death) – all of this has been given to Him by the Father.

Jesus does what His Father has given Him to do, to serve sinners – and what a consuming service it is. He becomes part of that which He created. He suffers, dies, and is buried – for sins He never committed. And He is raised to life again – has ascended into heaven – and even now, sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty – so that He might continue to attend to you.

After shedding His redeeming blood and giving His life into death – He was raised and showed Himself alive for a period of 40 days – and then ascended into heaven. The ascended Jesus has been glorified – but His glory is hidden from your eyes – and therefore, you must devote yourself to His Word.

His Word reveals what He is up to – that even now, He is serving you. Sitting at the right hand of God the Father Almighty – He serves you by interceding for you. Did you know that? Jesus is praying for you – constantly filling the Father’s ears with petitions on your behalf.

As One who shares your flesh and blood – as One who has promised to be with you always – Jesus knows your every need --- and on your behalf, He sets your needs before your Father who is in heaven.

What a humbling reality that is – that God’s own Son should serve us by watching out for our every need – and praying on our behalf to God the Father. This too is part of His ministry – God serving sinners.

Sinners, however, don’t like having their needs presented before God – either because of pride (which doesn’t like being dependent, or needy) – OR, because we know that we are “neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them.”

And it’s true – God should deny our prayers, because we daily sin much but He doesn’t. Rather, He hears and answers them – all because of our brother, Jesus Christ – who presents our requests to Him.

The resurrected Christ, when He appeared to His disciples – showed them His wounds – His hands and His side. In the same way, the resurrected Christ stands before Our Father in heaven – with His wounds a constant reminder of His service to all mankind.

Standing in the midst of His disciples, Jesus says – “Peace be with you” – delivering to them the peace He has won by His death and resurrection. As their Servant, He took all their sins into His flesh and died their death – and now He stands before them (in the flesh), ALIVE, showing that all the sin He once bore has been taken away – giving them the “peace” of sins forgiven.

Now, standing before the Father – His wounds proclaim that “it is finished” – His work of redemption complete – reconciling the world to God, by His blood.

Dearly beloved, the Father has sent His Son to serve you – and with His ascension He continues to attend to your needs. It is a very Christ-like thing for you to serve sinners as well – seeing and providing for your neighbor's need – praying on their behalf to Our Father in heaven, whose grace and peace are for all people.

He has given His own Son into death – that your sins, and the sins of your neighbor, might be washed away. In Holy Baptism He removes sin from sinners as far as the east is from the west. Baptized into Christ, sinners are united to His death, resurrection AND ascension – and our heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers.

Standing before the Father, Jesus service continues throughout all our days. He daily sets sinners free from the bondage of guilt and shame by His absolution. His Word consoles troubled souls, guiding them in the way of life everlasting. He invites the hungry to His Table to satisfy them, that they might be one with Him in His Body and Blood.

All this He does, “for you” – serving you – delivering what He promises and proclaims. “Peace be with you” – in Christ Jesus, our Servant. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, guards your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.