

## **Article 6**

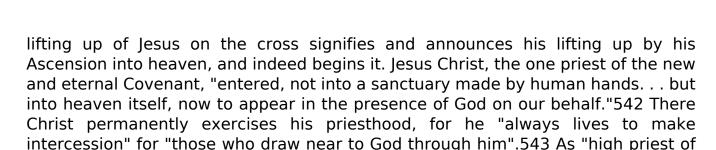
## "HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER"

659 "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God."531 Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.532 But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.533 Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand.534 Only in a wholly exceptional and unique way would Jesus show himself to Paul "as to one untimely born", in a last apparition that established him as an apostle.535

660 The veiled character of the glory of the Risen One during this time is intimated in his mysterious words to Mary Magdalene: "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."536 This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father's right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension.

661 This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who "came from the Father" can return to the Father: Christ Jesus.537 "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man."538 Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house", to God's life and happiness.539 Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us.540

662 "and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."541 The



663 Henceforth Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father: "By 'the Father's right hand' we understand the glory and honour of divinity, where he who exists as Son of God before all ages, indeed as God, of one being with the Father, is seated bodily after he became incarnate and his flesh was glorified."545

the good things to come" he is the centre and the principal actor of the liturgy that

664 Being seated at the Father's right hand signifies the inauguration of the Messiah's kingdom, the fulfilment of the prophet Daniel's vision concerning the Son of man: "To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."546 After this event the apostles became witnesses of the "kingdom [that] will have no end".547

## **Biblical Quote**

 $531 \Rightarrow Mk \ 16:19.$ 

532 Cf ⇒ Lk 24:31; ⇒ Jn 20:19, ⇒ 26.

honours the Father in heaven.544

533 Cf.  $\Rightarrow$  Acts 1:3;  $\Rightarrow$  10:41;  $\Rightarrow$  Mk 16:12;  $\Rightarrow$  Lk 24:15;  $\Rightarrow$  Jn 20:14-15;  $\Rightarrow$  21:4.

534 Cf.  $\Rightarrow$  Acts 1:9;  $\Rightarrow$  2:33;  $\Rightarrow$  7:56;  $\Rightarrow$  Lk 9:34-35;  $\Rightarrow$  24:51;  $\Rightarrow$  Ex 13:22;  $\Rightarrow$  Mk 16:19;  $\Rightarrow$  Ps 110:1.

 $535 \Rightarrow 1 \text{ Cor } 15:8; \text{ cf.} \Rightarrow 9:1; \Rightarrow \text{Gal } 1:16.$ 

 $536 \Rightarrow Jn 20:17.$ 

537 Cf. ⇒ Jn 16:28.

 $538 \Rightarrow Jn 3:13$ ; cf.  $\Rightarrow$  Eph 4:8-10.



$$539 \Rightarrow Jn 14:2.$$

540 Missale Romanum, Preface of the Ascension: sed ut illuc confideremus, sua membra, nos subsequi quo ipse, caput nostrum principiumque, praecessit.

$$541 \Rightarrow Jn 12:32.$$

$$542 \Rightarrow \text{Heb } 9:24.$$

$$543 \Rightarrow \text{Heb } 7:25.$$

$$544 \Rightarrow \text{Heb } 9:11; \text{ cf.} \Rightarrow \text{Rev } 4:6-11.$$

545 St. John Damascene, Defide orth. 4, 2: PG 94, 1104C.

547 Nicene Creed.