

St Thomas Church, 12 May 2024

The Ascension

“The Ascension is not about time and space (where Jesus is going when he is “lifted up”), but about our theological understanding.” (Steven Croft)

Why does this sound like a cop-out?

What does the Bible say about it?

Look up and ask:

Isaiah 53. 11-12 _____

Matthew 28. 16-20 _____

Mark 16.19 _____

Luke 24. 50-53 _____

Acts 1.9 _____

John 20.17 _____

John 21. 21-22 _____

I Corinthians 12.12 _____

Ephesians 2. 19-22 _____

Ephesians 4. 7-16 _____

Note that Luther on I Corinthians 12.12 says in surprise “He calls the Church “Christ”! “

What two contrasting models does St. Paul have in Ephesians?

“Ours are the mouths that speak his words,

Ours are the hands that do his works,

ours are the feet that walk in his ways” (St. Theresa of Avila – paraphrase)

What answer do you give to the child’s innocent question, “If Jesus is risen from the dead, why can’t we see him walking in the world now?”

Consider:

Matthew 16. 15-19

Luke 22. 31-32

John 21. 15-17

Which Church sees the Ascended Christ as present in St. Peter and his successors?

Note that both interpretations of the Ascension can be right.



Correggio: The Ascension of Christ

