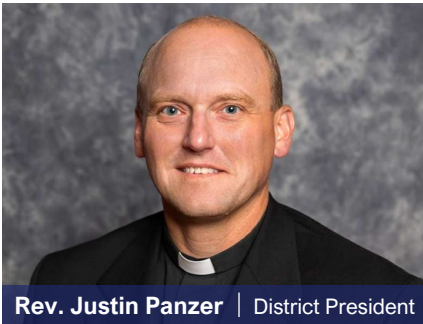


PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“While [Jesus] blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.”

(Luke 24:51-53)

**1 On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of mine ascension,
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well
I know his members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.**

**2 Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall rest in him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.
(LSB 492, On Christ's Ascension I Now Build, Sts. 1-2)**

Ascension Day is always on a Thursday 40 days after Easter (Acts 1:3). This year, it falls on May 29. The bodily ascension of

Christ back to the right hand of His Father is one of great joy. Why? Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus guarantees that our salvation is complete and secure. Hebrews 1:3b, *“After making purification for sins, [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

Jesus now rules the world for the sake of His Church. Ephesians 1:20, 22, *“[God the Father] seated [Christ] at his right hand in the heavenly places ... And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.”*

Jesus is praying for us. Romans 8:34, *“Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”*

Finally, Jesus is still present with us. Matthew 28:20b, *“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Yes, our salvation is complete

and secure in Christ. He is King over all things for the sake of His Church. He is now interceding for us before the throne of His Father. And, He is with us now in Word and Sacrament to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith. Worship this Christ on Ascension Day. After all, it is one of the major festivals of the Church Year!

“For in Him the divine and the human nature are personally united with one another, so that in Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Col. 2:9, and in this personal union have such a sublime, intimate, ineffable communion that even the angels are astonished at it, and, as St. Peter testifies, have their delight and joy in looking into it [1 Pet. 1:12]; all of which will shortly be explained in order and somewhat more fully.” (Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, VIII 30)