

## THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

### References:

El-Keraza, H. H. Pope Shenouda

### Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

### Objectives:

**General:**

**Specific:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Bible Verse:

“Why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus Who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven”

(Acts 1: 9-12).

### Lesson:

See Attached Sheets.

## The Glorious Feast of the Ascension

The disciples were standing and the Lord ascended, "...and a cloud received Him out of their sight". Two angels then appeared to them and said "why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus Who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1: 9-12).

The Ascension was evidence of the glory with which He will come in His Second Coming.

The sadness of Golgotha disappeared with the joys of the Resurrection, and the majesty of the Resurrection increased with the glories of the Ascension. The Lord, in His Ascension, was above the level of nature. His Ascension was evidence of the end of the period of self-concealment without return. Therefore, when He returns in His Second Coming, He will come in His glory, with the multitude of His Saints, on clouds with His angels (Matthew 25:31); He will also "...come in the glory of His Father with His angels" (Matthew 16:27).

The phrase 'sitting on the right hand of the Father' means 'in the majesty of the Father' or 'in the glory of the Father'. Saint Paul the Apostle said about the Lord that "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on most high, having become so much better than the angels" (Hebrews 1:3,4).

By His Ascension to heaven, He attracted our attention and hearts to heaven also because He said "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32). With His lifting up He will prepare a place for us, for He said "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).

We will be with Him in glory and in the joyous eternity.

As for now, those who depart from this ephemeral world will be with Him in Paradise as He said to the repentant thief who was crucified with Him; "...today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:24). The important thing is that we will be with Him.

On this point Saint Paul the Apostle said "For I, ...having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:32). How will this be however, and how will we be with Him?

He who ascends with his heart and thought above the level of the earth and materiality deserves to ascend and s 1 be with the Lord.

As for those who adhere to the earth and materiality, how will they ascend? Whenever man ascends, then the earth will decrease in his point of view and everything in it will diminish, as if it were nothing. The feast of the Ascension also gives us the principle of ascension. The spiritual life, or the life with Christ, is a continual upwards growth until we reach the life of perfection. It is the permanent connection with heaven. The bell tower in the church gives us an idea of the upwards direction towards heaven and the ascension above the level of the earth and the earthly.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.