



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther

The Creed, the Second Chief Part: The Gospel

Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; **in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

After the resurrection from the dead [Christ's] human nature enjoys **exaltation over all creatures in heaven and on earth.**

This is nothing other than that he has laid aside the form of a servant completely (without discarding his human nature, which he retains forever) and was installed into the full possession and use of his divine majesty according to his assumed human nature. Of course, he also possessed this majesty from his conception in the womb of his mother, but, as the Apostle testifies [Philippians 2:7], he emptied himself of that majesty, and as Dr. Luther explains, he kept it secret **in his state of humiliation** and did not use it all the time but only when he wanted to. However, after this he did not merely ascend to heaven as any other holy person, but, as the Apostle testifies [Ephesians 4:10], **he ascended far above all the heavens, truly fills all things, and now rules everywhere,** from one sea to the other and to the end of the world, not only as God but also as a human being. – *Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, VIII, 26-27.*

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE - JOHN 20:24-31

“Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ So he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him,



‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,** and that believing you may have life in His name.”

A VERSE TO REMEMBER
“It is finished!” **John 19:30**

Thomas sees the risen Christ
Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio - 1602