

My Beloved Ones,

On Thursday, June 9th, we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. This event is something that we as Orthodox believe and proclaim in our Creed, *“He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.”*

After His Resurrection, for 40 days, our Lord appeared to His disciples and the women in different places; teaching them and telling them that He was soon to return to His Father, ascending into Heaven with His body.



And this is exactly what happened 40 days after His Resurrection, on the Mount of Olives; which is actually a hill just outside of Jerusalem, not too far from the Garden of Gethsemane, where He went to pray before His Passion and Crucifixion.

We believe that our Lord’s Ascension and His Enthronement demonstrate the position He had and still has with His Father, our God. Although we did not witness His earthly ministry: His miracles, His sermons and His teachings, we know that these were examples of His human and divine natures working in unity.

Just as the Resurrection offered us the opportunity to be united with our God, the Ascension is also proof that Heaven has been opened to us, for these were the final steps in reconciliation between the human race and our Creator.

Let us think upon the glorious majesty of our Lord’s Resurrection and His Ascension, and always prayerfully consider the ways in which we can bring ourselves closer to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

+ALEXIOS

Metropolitan of Atlanta