



*He has raised our human nature
On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heav'nly places,
There with Him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord's ascension
We by faith behold our own.
(LSB 494.5, public domain)*

When our Lord ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did so in our human flesh and blood. We who are baptized into Christ are right there with Him, in intimate fellowship with our Triune God and with each other. We are there in both body and soul, as we:

- hear His Word proclaimed in our ears
- receive His Very Body and Blood into our mouths
- believe that our sins are forgiven and that we are declared right with the Father
- return our sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, from our hearts and minds with our voices
- sacrificially love one another.

And at the end of our earthly lives, each of us can each face the moment of his/her death in peace, knowing for certain that on the Last Day, we too will rise from the grave, body and soul reunited, to eternal life in His presence.

Furthermore, God desires *all* people to be in Christ at His right hand. After all, He personally created and formed each person, beginning with the one-flesh union of his/her mother and father. All human life matters to Him and to us; as He wants that same intimate fellowship with all, so do we, now and into eternity. (Have you ever considered that one of the most pro-life actions you can take is simply to share the Gospel with your unchurched neighbor and invite him/her to join you at the next service in your congregation?)

Like all days in the Church Year, the High Feast of the Ascension boldly proclaims the sanctity of human life. God's richest blessings on you as you celebrate this holy day!