

## ASCENSION-TIDE.

“Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the Right Hand of God.”

1 PETER iii. 21, 22.

**U**CH constitutes the grand closing scene of the life of Jesus, after enduring shame and reproach, and dying on the Cross for the sins of the world. Therefore, having complied with the conditions which in the covenant of redemption were laid upon Him, He is now entitled to live and reign in heaven. He had borne the shame, now He must share the glory; He had endured the sorrow, now He must experience the joy. And with such convictions, and under the influence of such emotions, the angelic hosts command the heavenly portals to lift up their heads, that the Lord of angels and the Saviour of men might enter in.

And what a reception there awaited Him! The command issued by the celestial hosts was not in vain; the gates are thrown open to receive Jesus, now “by seraph hosts adored<sup>a</sup>.” He enters, and what a form of majesty! On His brow, once pierced with thorns, is the mediatorial crown, resplendent with many gems; in His hands are the palms of victory; and at His girdle hang the keys of death and hell. And as He enters, the Eternal “I AM<sup>b</sup>,” the Everlasting Father, rising from the celestial throne, welcomes His return, and proclaims with ineffable benignity, “Thou art My beloved Son, sit Thou on My right hand, until I make Thy foes Thy footstool.” Thereupon, we may hear the joyous song of thanksgiving as it bursts forth from those who stand around the throne, ascribing “Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever<sup>c</sup>.”

If, then, we are risen with Christ, it should be our aim to “seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God<sup>d</sup>,” to “mortify our members which are upon the earth,” and not be forgetful of all that Jesus suffered when on earth. Now that He “ever liveth to make intercession<sup>e</sup>,” let us give Him our cause to plead: God has “exalted Him with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance unto His people, and forgiveness of sins<sup>f</sup>,” let us then look to Him, that we may be made partakers of these blessings. “It is expedient for you,” He said to His disciples, “that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you<sup>g</sup>,” He has ascended in order to bequeath the gift of the Spirit: let us then beseech Him to pour His Spirit upon us in all His convincing, regenerating, en-

<sup>a</sup> Keble.

<sup>b</sup> Exod. iii. 14.

<sup>c</sup> Rev. v. 13.

<sup>d</sup> Col. iii. 1.

<sup>e</sup> Heb. vii. 25.

<sup>f</sup> Acts v. 31.

<sup>g</sup> John xvi. 7.