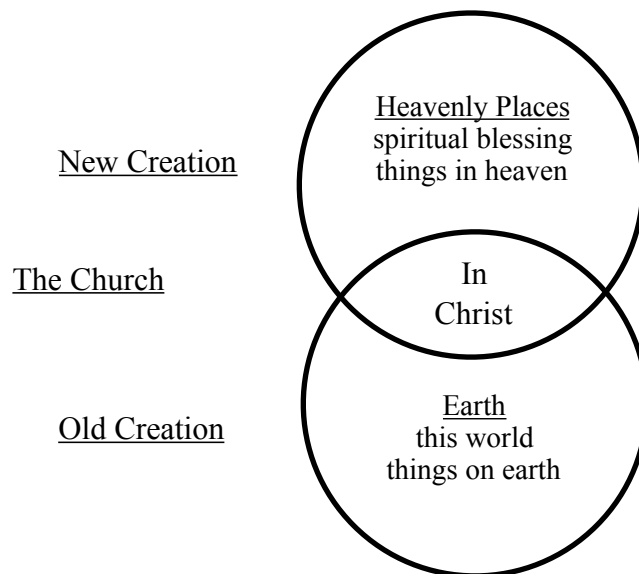


The Ascension of the Lord (Year C)

Ephesians 1:17-23—God Sits at the Right Hand in the Heavens

¹⁷ [May] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ which *he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²² and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:17-23)

1. Anagogy: Christ is *already* seated “in the heavenly places” (1:20).
2. Old Creation: in “this age” (Greek *aiōn*) (1:20)
3. New Creation: in “that which is to come” (Greek *en tō mellonti*) (1:21)



The Living Tradition

Thomas Aquinas: “Setting him on his right hand” refers to the second element of Christ’s exaltation... Considered in relation to God, he is seated at his right hand; *this is not to be thought of as a bodily organ*—“God is spirit” (John 4:24)—but as a metaphorical way of speaking... [W]hen we say that Christ Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, it should be understood that according to his humanity he partakes of the Father’s choicest

blessings, and according to his divinity it is understood as equality with the Father. “The LORD said to my Lord: sit at my right hand” (Ps 110:1)... (Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on Ephesians* no. 60 [trans. F. R. Larcher and M. L. Lamb])