

Reflection Ascension Thursday 2023

Ascension Day . . . A Heavenly "Up-rising"!

Ascensions into heaven are like falling leaves, sad and happy all at the same time. Going away isn't really sad, especially when your going enables a new kind of presence to be born. Long have the leaves known the trees. They've danced together in the wind days upon days. But now, growing older and wiser, they know they can't cling to the trees forever. And so, they say good-bye falling to the ground waiting for the mystery of death to transform them into nourishment for the earth.

And the trees? They stand alone for one short season but they are at peace, waiting for another mystery to enfold them with its presence.

When I saw you leaving, I covered my face with my heart. Oh, the ache of letting go. But then I remembered the trees and so I stood in peace remembering your return.

When you come back, we will be new for each other, much will have happened in our lives. There will be more for each of us to love, more for each of us to know.

The Spirit will have left a footprint in our lives, and we will be excited like a new leaf come home to a tree! (From: Seasons of Your Heart by Macrina Wiederkehr)

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" a teacher asked the children in her Sunday school class.

"No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would

I get into heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "No!"

"Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You've gotta be dead!"