

“A Hymn to Christ: Chapter 2:5-11”

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

For Reflection... on the "Christ Hymn"

Read the "Christ Hymn" in Chapter 2:5-11. Then reflect on the etching by Rembrandt as you follow the instructions. (You can find a much better image if you go online to the Met.) As we saw, the hymn itself is divided into two sections: the Descent and the Ascent.

The Descent (vss. 5-8)

1. Read the verses two or three times slowly, pausing when a phrase "jumps out" at you.
2. Ask yourself: what does Jesus descend from, and what does he descend to?
3. Spend some time contemplating Rembrandt's etching as it relates to Jesus' Descent.



"The Three Crosses": Fourth State, 1660; The Met, New York

The Ascent (vss. 9-11)

1. Read these verses two or three times too, pausing when a word or phrase strikes you.
2. Ask yourself: from the depths of this Descent, by God's power, what does Jesus ascend to?
3. What is the goal of Jesus' Descent and Ascent, and what is its meaning for the world and for us?