

A Liturgy for Ascension Day 2020

Welcome from Revd Adam Pawley

Musical Item Thine be the Glory



§1 The Gathering

God has gone up with a shout,
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. *Psalm 47.5*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God. Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

The Ascension Reading – Acts 1:4-11 *read by Pam*

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Gloria

Musical Item from Gareth – The Gloria

The Collect

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.

Silence

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have
ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with
him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

§2 The Liturgy of the Word

Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23 *from Bethan*

¹⁵ *For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,* ¹⁶ *I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.* ¹⁷ *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.* ¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,* ¹⁹ *and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength* ²⁰ *he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,* ²¹ *far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.* ²² *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,* ²³ *which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle – based on Revelation 15 *from Adam & Claire T*

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
And share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds:
Lord God the Almighty.

Just and true are your ways:
O ruler of the nations.

Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord?
For you alone are holy.

All nations shall come and worship in your presence:
For your just dealings have been revealed.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb:
**Be blessing and honour and glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.

Gospel Reading – Luke 24:44-53[end] *from Gareth*

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ *[Jesus] said to [his disciples], ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’*

⁴⁵ *Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.* ⁴⁶ *He told them, ‘This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’*

⁵⁰ *When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Silence*

Ascension Day Address *from Revd Gareth Erlandson*

An Affirmation of Faith for Ascension Day *from Andrew*

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**



**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end. Amen.**

§3 The Prayers

With Introduction to Thy Kingdom Come *from Kirsty*

The Lord's Prayer

§4 The Dismissal

Reading – Acts 1.12,13a,14 *from Luke*

*Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Silence

Response to Ascension & Preparation for Pentecost *from Sally Ann & Esther*

As we wait in silence,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we long for your refreshing,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
Make us ready for your coming Spirit.

Silence

Please turn over

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

And the blessing of God almighty...

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
We go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Musical Item Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning from Rachel