

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

The Blessing

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

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

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

And the blessing of God almighty...
Amen.

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
We go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ascension Day



§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

While staying with [the apostles], [Jesus] 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.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven...

§4 The Dismissal

Reading – Acts 1.12,13a,14

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*

Responsory to Ascension & Preparation for Pentecost

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.

§3 The Prayers

Prayers of Intercession

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ, seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
we pray with you for the Church,
your broken body in the world.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
we pray with you for the world,
make it subject to your gentle rule.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
we pray with you for your brothers and sisters in need,
distress or sorrow.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
we pray with you for us who receive
the gifts you give us for work in your service.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

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

**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]

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*

An Affirmation of Faith for Ascension Day

**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.**



#PLEDGE2PRAY