

Ascension Day Service



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.**

Hymn

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.4-11)

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 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. (Acts 1.12,13a,14)

No responses are used at the end of the reading.

Responsory

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.

The Blessing

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

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

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

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

A minister says

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

Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

The ministers and people depart.

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.'

At the end the reader says

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

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

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.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

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

Silence is kept.

Risen Christ,

you have raised our human nature to the throne of

heaven: help us to seek and serve you,

that we may join you at the Father's side,

where you reign with the Spirit in glory,

now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection;

live in us, that we may live in you.

Giving of Communion

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Al-

leluia. The Lord our God has entered into his

kingdom. **Blessed are those who are called to**

the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in

Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven:

mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiri-

tual blessings, we may set our hearts in the

heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this

sacrament, united us with Christ,

and given us a foretaste of the heavenly ban-

quet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

The Dismissal

Hymn

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: Then

the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the

mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a

Sabbath day's journey away.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Ephesians 1:15-end

At the end the reader says

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

Hymn

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 24.44-end

At the end

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

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand, and made him the head over all things for his body the Church: hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world.

Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us, that we may use them to your glory, and the building up of the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth: hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem.

Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for peace, and may strive for the reconciliation of all people in his kingdom of justice and love.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age: hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work.

Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us, that people may take note of us, that we have been with Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us: hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need.

May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them, that they may find grace to help in time of need, and rejoice in his salvation.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms, and gone before us to prepare a place for us: hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over, and whose life is now hidden in him with you.

Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'. Alleluia. *John 14.27,28*

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

Hymn

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be. Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.