

The Liturgy of Ascension Day

God has gone up with a shout,
All 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.
All Amen.

The Greeting

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

Introduction

The president introduces the service using these or other suitable words
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 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.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A minister says

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.

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.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Canticle

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

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds, ♦
Lord God the Almighty.
- 2 Just and true are your ways, ♦
O ruler of the nations.
- 3 Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord? ♦
for you alone are holy.
- 4 All nations shall come and worship in your presence: ♦
for your just dealings have been revealed.

Revelation 15.3,4

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

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All Alleluia. Glory to God the Father.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.44-end:

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon/talk

Prayers of Intercession

Lead for us by Revd Alison Judge

The response to the prayers is: Lord graciously hear us

Merciful Father,

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

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (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.

Silence is kept.

Responsory

As we wait in silence,

All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word,

All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

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

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

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

The Blessing

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
All Amen.

The Dismissal

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