



## The Liturgy of Ascension

*All Stand to Sing*  
**Opening Hymn**

### **The Gathering**

*All* God has gone up with a shout,  
**the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

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

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 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!**

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**

***All***     ***Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.***  
**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.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.***

**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:*

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:

**All Amen.**

*All Stand*  
**Hymn**

**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.**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All Sit*

**Sermon**

*All Stand*

**The Creed**

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the  
Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **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.

Bidding: Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The Intercessions may conclude with:*

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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*All Stand*

### **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.

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

*All*

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Hymn**

#### ***Preparation of the Table***

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

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

### ***All Sit***

#### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **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. 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:

**All**     **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.**

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.

**All**     **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.

**All**     **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.

**All**     **Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

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.

**All**     **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:

**All**     **Blessing and honour and glory and power**  
**be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**



## **The Lord's Prayer**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All**     **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## ***Breaking of the Bread***

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

**All**     **Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.

**All**     **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Live in us, that we may live in you.

## **Giving of Communion**

*The president says the invitation to communion*

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**All**     **Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the  
Lamb. Alleluia.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*

## **Hymn**

*Silence is kept.*

### ***Prayer after Communion***

***All*** We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.

## **Hymn**

### **The Dismissal**

#### **Reading Acts 1: 12-14**

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 may be kept.*

*All Stand*

### **Responsory**

*All* As we wait in silence,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*All* As we listen to your word,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

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

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

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

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

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

***Cont'd***

## **The Blessing**

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

**All**     **Amen.**

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

**All**     **Amen.**

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

**All**     **Amen.**

*And the blessing ...*

*A deacon says*

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

**All**     **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*The ministers and people depart.*