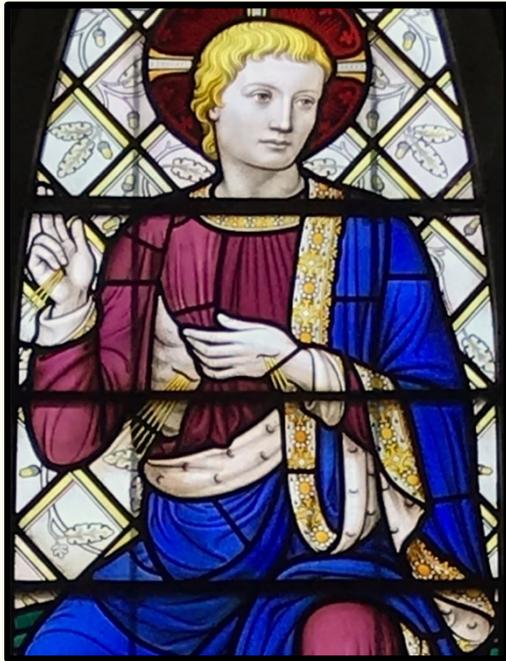


PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

Liturgy of Ascension Day



*'Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be
proclaimed in his name to all nations'*

Luke 24.47

Opening Organ Voluntary

Chorale Prelude, BWV 639: Ich ruf zu dir (I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ)
J S Bach (1685-1750)

The Gathering

The minister greets the people.

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

Hymn

The head that once was crowned with thorns

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;

The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given;
their name, an everlasting name,
their joy, the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

(tune St Magnus, A&M 232)

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The Ascension Reading

This reading ideally should not be read by the person leading this part of the service.

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:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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.'

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 minister introduces a period of silent prayer.

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 Liturgy of the Word

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia.

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.

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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the sermon you are encouraged to listen to the following Anthem.

Coelos ascendit hodie

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Performed by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOiQisvjVSM

Text Anon, 12th century

Coelos ascendit hodie

Jesus Christus Rex gloriae.

Sedet ad Patris dexteram,

Gubernat coelum et terram.

Jam finem habent omnia

Patris Davidis carmina.

Jam Dominus cum Domino

Sedet in Dei solio.

In hoc triumpho maximo

Benedicamus Domino.

Laudatur Sancta Trinitas;

Deo dicamus gratias.

*Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
has ascended today into the heavens.*

*He sits at the right hand of the Father
and rules heaven and earth.*

*Now all the psalms of David,
our Father, are fulfilled.*

*Now the Lord sits with the
Lord on the seat of God.*

*In this greatest of triumphs
let us bless the Lord.*

*The Holy Trinity be glorified;
let us give thanks to God.*

The Creed

An authorized translation of the Nicene Creed is used.

**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

The minister introduces the prayers.

One of these responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy or Lord, hear us
hear our prayer **Lord, graciously hear us**

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The minister introduces 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.

Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it.
The following prayer is used:*

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.

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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Descant
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Descant
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the saviour of the world.**

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.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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 minister 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.

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**



Choir only ----- All -----
 Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.
 Choir only ----- All -----
 Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.
 Choir only ----- All -----
 Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

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

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Alleluia.

In line with the Church of England guidance on Spiritual Communion at this time of the Coronavirus (see separate document for guidance),

I invite you to pray:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
 for all the benefits you have given me,
 for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
 I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
 may I know you more clearly,
 love you more dearly,
 and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The post communion prayer is said:

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 spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Then all say together:

**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

All hail the power of Jesu's name

All hail the power of Jesu's name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him, crown him, crown him
crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
to him their hearts enthrall,
lift high the universal song
and crown him Lord of all.

(tune Miles Lane, A&M 223)

The Dismissal

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.

No responses are used at the end of the reading.

Silence is kept.

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.

Silence

The Blessing

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Organ Voluntary

Voluntary no. 1 in D major (from 10 Voluntaries)

William Boyce (1710-1779)

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Ascension Day Order of Service 21 May 2020

