

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



# 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.**

*An opening hymn is sung.*

*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, 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.'

*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 heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

## Gloria in Excelsis

All sing:

Glo-ry to God in the high-est\_, and  
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fath-er  
*Descant*  
we wor-ship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.  
Lord Jes - us\_ Christ, on-ly Son of the\_  
Fath-er, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have  
mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fath-er: re-ceive our  
prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-lyOne, you a - lone are the  
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High\_, Jes-us Christ with the Ho - ly\_  
*Descant*  
Spi-rit\_, in the glo-ry of God the\_ Fath-er. A\_ men\_.

## 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

*The congregation and choir sing the Celtic Alleluia,  
with the two intervening sentences sung by the choir alone:*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Now he is living, the Christ.  
Out of the tomb he is risen;  
He has conquered death,  
opened heaven to all believers.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

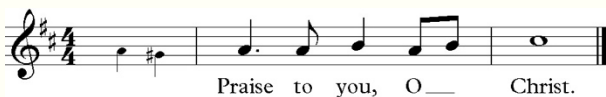


## Luke 24.44-end

Then Jesus 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 the reader may say:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Sermon

*After the Sermon an anthem may be sung, or a piece of music played.*

## 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.**

### The Offertory

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like most parishes there's been a real pressure on our income recently, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider supporting our mission and ministry. Donations can be made today or online – simply search 'Give a Little Parish of Esher' or click on this link: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/d9f42eab-78e6-4ce8-880b-215b3f77c260>. Or to donate to our Parish bank account, please contact the Parish Office or Parish Treasurer for details and Gift Aid forms.

## Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it, while a hymn is sung or a piece of music is played.*

*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:

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.*

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*

*During the distribution, music may be sung or played.*

## 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.**

## **The Dismissal**

*Notices may be given.*

*A closing hymn is sung.*

## **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

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 you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

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

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