

Service of Holy Communion For the Sunday after Ascension

Preparation

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

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

For more than 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.

Gathering prayer - We say together
Almighty God, your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The first reading - Acts 1: 6-11

The Gloria

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to the Father.
Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to the
Father.

To Him be glory forever!

To Him be glory forever!

Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen!**

Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!

Glory to God! Glory to God! Son of the Father...

Glory to God! Glory to God! Son of the
Father...

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to the Spirit...

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to the
Spirit...

Prayer of Penitence *A time to say sorry to God*

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is
close at hand.'

A short time of silence

Lord have mercy upon us, forgive us where
we have gone wrong and sinned and help us
to walk from now on in your way. Amen.

May the God of love and power bring you back to
himself, forgive you and free you from your sins,
and restore you to newness of life by his Spirit.

The Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your
triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and
compassion, that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Gospel reading - John 17: 1-11

Sermon – this is on a separate sheet

We sing – Lord enthroned

Affirmation of faith - We say together

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator
of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the dead. On the
third day he rose again; he ascended into
heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers for those things on our hearts

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most
powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for
others brings transformation to their lives.
During the time between Ascension and Pentecost
we are asked to pray for 5 people who need God
more. As we think about them let us pray:

Loving God, thank You that You gave Your Son
Jesus for me, and for all people. Help me accept the
love that You showed me in sending Your Son. I
pray for my five friends. Please open their hearts to
Your love. And teach me to love more truly. Amen

Loving God, thank You for Your costly love. Please
may my five friends understand something of the
strength of Your love for them. Help us all to share
that love with others especially in this time of
lockdown and show us new ways to reach out.

Loving God, thank You for Your love from which
nothing can separate us, and which does not depend
on our efforts. Please reveal this love and the peace
it brings, in the lives of the five people I am praying

for. And may your peace be with all those who have been affected by the virus so that they will know they are not alone.

Loving God, please get my friends on the road where they see You running to meet them. Thank You that You welcome us with joy however far or however long we have been away. Give all those who have lost loved ones confidence to know that they are now in your care where they are loved with a love that passes all understanding.

Holy Spirit, thank You that You are living in me, showing me God's love and helping me share that love with others.

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

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

The Eucharist

As we cannot share at the Lord's table; I will receive the bread and wine on your behalf. As I do that, pray and ask Jesus to fill your heart as if you were receiving it for yourself!

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.

And now we give you thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of your majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

On the night he was handed over, Jesus had a meal with his friends. He took a loaf of bread and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples. He said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, remember me.

As our Father 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.

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The minister receives communion.

After Communion - Let us pray:

God our Creator, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus Christ, whose love pursues us our whole life long.

Thank you Jesus, for giving your life to us in word and deed, even unto death, even death on a cross.

**Come Holy Spirit, feed us with your love that we may be filled with power to love God with all our hearts and souls and minds.
Amen.**

We sing – Christ Triumphant

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.

DISMISSAL

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