

Chet Valley Churches

Ascension Day

21st May 2020

The Liturgy of Ascension Day

The Gathering

Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia!

The president greets the people.

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

📺 Video: The Ascension [Acts 1:6-10]

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.

Hymn 255: Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

**Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!
Ravished from our wishful eyes! Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
Re-ascends His native heaven. Alleluia!**

**There the glorious triumph waits: Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene, Alleluia!**

Take the King of Glory in! Alleluia!

Him though highest heaven receives, Alleluia!

Still He loves the earth He leaves; Alleluia!

Though returning to His throne, Alleluia!

Still He calls mankind His own. Alleluia!

See, he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!

see, he shews the prints of love; Alleluia!

hark, his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!

blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

There we shall with Thee remain, Alleluia!

Partners of Thy endless reign; Alleluia!

There Thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!

Find our heaven of heavens in Thee, Alleluia!

The Collect

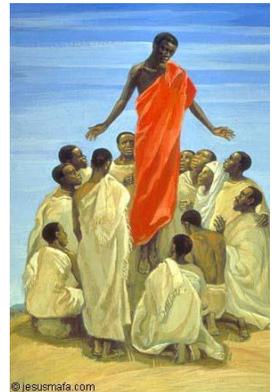
The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

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.

Amen.



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The Liturgy of the Word

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the kings of the earth belong to God;

HE IS GREATLY EXALTED.

Psalm 47:5-9 (NIV)

Hymn 273: He is Exalted

**He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted,
Forever exalted
And I will praise His name!**

**He is the Lord,
Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high!**



Reflection

*We see how artists from around the world have tried to depict the Ascension of Jesus.
How do you imagine it? We end with a poem by Christine Sine:*

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new world has broken into ours.
Justice will come for the poor,
freedom for the prisoners,
healing for the sick.

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new community has been formed.
Love and caring will flourish,
The abandoned and rejected will be welcomed.
All people will find a place of belonging.

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new creation has begun.

all that was distorted is being restored;
all that was corrupted is being renewed;
all that was broken is being made whole.

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
God's new world has begun.

Creed

We affirm our faith in God:

God whose glory fills our world,
God Whose life is closer than breath,
God whose love is stronger than death.

**God, this God of life and love,
Has sent an advocate to save us,
Jesus Christ risen to the right hand of God.**

Not to condemn but to bring full life,
Not to accuse but to redeem,
Not to reject but to draw close.

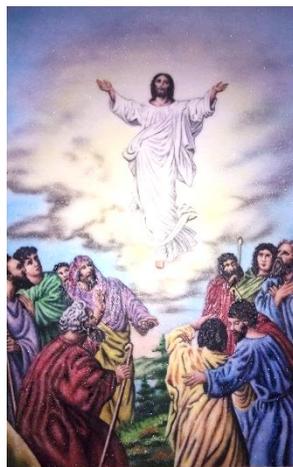
**God, this God of life and love,
Has sent an advocate to save us,
Jesus Christ risen to the right hand of God.**

God who hears the cry of our seeking souls,
God who sees the pain of our suffering bodies,
God who feels the loss of our grieving spirits.

**God, this God of life and love,
Has sent an advocate to be with us forever,
The Spirit of truth abides with us eternally.**

Before us to teach and lead,
Within us to comfort and heal,
Around us to shield and protect.

**God, this God of life and love,
Has sent an advocate to be with us forever,
The Spirit of truth abides with us eternally.**



Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

As your church remains scattered and the buildings closed,
Send a blessing, O Lord.

Strengthen us in faith and witness to your saving love,
Raise us up, O Lord.

As the world remains locked-down but beginning to emerge,
Send a blessing, O Lord.

Guide our leaders to work for the good of all,
Raise us up, O Lord.

As we have rediscovered birdsong, fresh air and wild flowers,
Send a blessing, O Lord.

Help us to re-engage with the natural rhythms of your world,
Raise us up, O Lord.

As we have reached out to one another within the Chet Valley,
Send a blessing, O Lord.

Give us the commitment to maintaining these relationships,
Raise us up, O Lord.

On those who are sick and distressed in any way,
Send a blessing, O Lord.

And we pray for all those who have died,
Raise them up, O Lord.

Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you came down low from highest heaven to be with us; that you know the heights and depths of our lives and are there with us in all we do and experience.

Help us to know your presence when we are low.
Help us to celebrate with you when we are high.

Thank you that you returned from earth to highest heaven and sent your spirit to be with us always.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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. *John 14.27,28*

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

These words may be added

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share a sign of peace in our hearts.

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.

And now we give you thanks because, after his most glorious resurrection, he appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, we may also go to reign with him in glory as 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.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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.

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 president 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.



Giving of Communion

The president says

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.

If you would like to share bread and wine at this point, do so as a token of the fuller sharing which we shall be able to undertake when we can meet together again.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept

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

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.

Hymn: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life,
I'm so glad You came to save us

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high.*

The Blessing

The president may use the seasonal blessing, or another suitable blessing, or

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.

Amen.

The Dismissal

A minister says

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The ministers and people depart.

