

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives
tell your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

'Shine Jesus Shine' by Graham Kendrick

Prayer of approach

The light is spreading. It started off one Easter when tombstones rolled and graves were found empty, Jesus was alive. The news spread from disciple to apostle, from followers to strangers. It spread like a fire among us, this news of new life. It spreads still today here in this place, among us who dare believe that life and death is not all there is. In this place new light is streaming, the Good News still has power to unfold and renew.

Hymn: "Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDeiy9-t2GE>

Ascension Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May we be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for us. And may we do so prudently, joyfully, respectfully and with your help, guidance and grace! And remembering this glorious event, help us to seek what is above, Heaven, where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father!

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Before the throne of God above

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhLjOmMqCTU>

Bible Reading: Acts 1:6-11 The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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.'

Brief Reflection: Unstoppable Gospel – Introduction to the books of Acts.

Prayer concern

May we hang around for people, may we linger with intent... to care, may we breach the peace... with justice. May we not just look for a new thing, but follow it through, not just have an idea but make it happen, not complain about this and that, but do something about it. In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful **Of the presence of God among us.**

Loving and ever-present God, we come before you this week bringing all that we are seeking your presence, your love, your wisdom, and your grace. We do not have to look far to see the brokenness and pain in the world, from health struggles to concerns about our finances, many of us bring fears and carry deep worry to you, Redeeming One. Though we have our own problems, we intentionally lift our eyes to the world to see where our siblings are suffering and our beautiful planet is in need of restoration.

Lord God, we bring before you the May 14th mass shooting at a Tops Friendly Markets supermarket in Kingsley, an eastern neighbourhood of Buffalo, New York, United States. We mourn for the families of the ten people, many elders who were killed, and three others injured while shopping; eleven of the victims were African-American. We mourn that gun laws allow for purchase of assault rifles. We mourn that

conspiracy and lies are fostered. We acknowledge the blatant racism and crimes of hate that descend on our people. Comfort us. Awaken us. O, Lord we ask for your mercy in these times. We trust, Holy God, that your spirit of peace and hope is mightily at work in our lives, in these circumstances and events. We also have faith that you are at work bringing wholeness and healing, God of New Beginnings, as we see signs of joy and celebration in the new relationships in our lives, and new opportunities on the horizon. We are lifted up by stories and news where life, hope and joy are abundant. Heighten our awareness Lord of All, so we might celebrate with those who rejoice, even as we mourn with those who grieve. Guide us, we pray, as we work to co-create your beloved community on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: (Zoom Service) Lord enthroned in heavenly Splendor
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gq29FeQbKY&t=57s>

Hymn: (Second/ live Service) Crown Him with many crowns

1. Crown Him with many crowns
The Lamb upon His throne
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own
Awake my soul and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity
2. Crown Him the Lord of life
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die
3. Crown Him the Lord of love
Behold His hands and side
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight
But downward bends each burning eye
At mysteries so bright
4. Crown Him the Lord of peace
Whose power a sceptre sways

From pole to pole
That wars may cease
And all be prayer and praise
His reign shall know no end
And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet

Crown Him the Lord of years
The Potentate of time
Creator of the rolling spheres
Ineffably sublime
All hail Redeemer hail
For Thou hast died for me
Thy praise shall never never fail
Throughout eternity

CCLI Song # 23938, George Job Elvey | Godfrey Thring | Matthew Bridges. CCLI Licence No. 707503

Final blessings - Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? (Acts 1:11)

People of God, let's not just stand gazing into heaven. Instead, let's take up the mission Jesus left us: to bring justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry; to care for the widow and orphan; to share the abundant life Jesus offers with the world around us until He comes again.

*God is good
all the
time*