

Sunday May 29th 2022: Seventh Sunday of Easter and Ascension Tide

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



Hymn StF 300 / H&P 197

Hail the day that sees him rise, *Alleluia!* ravished from our wistful eyes! *Alleluia!*

Christ, awhile to mortals given, *Alleluia!* reascends 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!*

Master, parted from our sight, *Alleluia!* high above the azure height, *Alleluia!*

grant our hearts to you may rise, *Alleluia!* following you beyond the skies: *Alleluia!*

Cast ourselves before your throne, *Alleluia!* here our heaven of heavens to own, *Alleluia!*

there we shall with you remain, *Alleluia!* partners of your endless reign: *Alleluia!*

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Prayer

God our Father, King of heaven:

All honour and glory and power are yours by right.

Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, ascended Lord:

All honour and glory and power are yours by right.

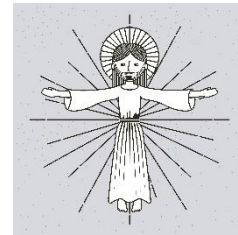
Spirit of God, lighting upon us, filling our lives with loved, spurring us to greater deeds:

All honour and glory and power are yours by right.

Our glorious and holy God, we praise you for all that makes the unseen heaven a reality to us while we live on earth: for word and sacrament, for faithful Christians past and present, for fellowship in the Church, and for times of deep awareness that Jesus is with us always.

One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: all honour and glory and power are yours by right.

From 'Prayers for the People' edited by Michael Perry



Gospel for Ascensiontide: Luke 24 v 44 – 53

Hymn StF 293 SOF 10

All heaven declares / the glory of the risen Lord / who can compare / with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be / the Lamb upon the throne / I gladly bow the knee / and worship him alone.

I will proclaim / the glory of the risen Lord / who once was slain / to reconcile us to God.

For ever you will be / the Lamb upon the throne / I gladly bow the knee / and worship you alone.

Noel Richards (b 1955) and Tricia Richards (b 1960) CCL no. 667973

Reading for Ascensiontide: Acts 1 v 1 – 11

To think about

As these two readings were written by the same author (Luke) – and are the only accounts we have of the ascension – can we put them together in a sensible way and have an enlarged account of how Jesus left his disciples?

Message from a Circuit friend

At the end of the Easter season we are between the Ascension and Pentecost. Jesus had risen from the dead, but now has gone back to the Father in heaven. But he has not gone altogether. Before his death Jesus prayed passionately for his disciples, and also for those who would hear his message through them. He repeats the words, 'in me', 'in you', 'in us', 'in them'. For the world will only come to believe that Jesus was sent by the Father, when his disciples are in complete unity 'in

him', just as Jesus is 'in' the Father, and the Father is 'in him'. He prays that the Father's love for him, may also be in his disciples, and that Jesus himself may be 'in them'. We not only have the love of God, 'in us', but also, the presence of Jesus 'in us'. 40 days after his resurrection, the disciples were with Jesus as he ascended into heaven, right in front of their eyes. He was gone – but his presence would remain, through the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They were asked, "*Why do you stand here looking into the sky?*" ...[Acts 1:10 – 11]

I love to watch birds, and I find that the skylark is a good image of the Ascension. You usually hear a skylark first, with its distinctive song – high up in the sky – then it descends to earth and ascends again, until it is out of sight. But you can still hear it – even when you can't see it – you know it's still there. The skylark reminds us that heaven and earth are very close.

Jesus may be hidden from our sight, but his presence remains. When he is 'in us' and we are in unity with him and with one another – then the world may see him in us and also believe.

Elsie Warby (Local Preacher and Senior Steward at Watton Methodist Church)

Collect for Ascensiontide

Eternal and gracious God, grant that as we believe your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to have ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven, so may we also in heart and mind ascend to where he is 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.

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Prayers of Intercession

Pray for the world, for our country, for the Church, for those in need, for your local community, for your neighbours, family, friends, and yourself.

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...

Hymn StF 568 H&P 592

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus / his the sceptre, his the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph / his the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion / thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus, out of every nation / has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans / are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us / faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him / when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise / 'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia! King eternal / thee the Lord of lords we own.

Alleluia! Born of Mary / earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.

Thou within the veil hast entered / robed in flesh, our great High Priest;

thou on earth both priest and victim / in the eucharistic feast.

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

Circuit News: Our next 'Big Sunday' is next week, June 5th and, of course, coincides with the Queen's Jubilee weekend and also with the Christian celebration of Pentecost. As usual, there will be an extended Worship Sheet which contains the script of talks and prayers that will be given on zoom and recorded for youtube. Churches can adapt the material for their own use and individuals will be able to use the Worship Sheet at home in the usual way. The service can also be watched as a live-stream from Watton Methodist Church. The Sunday morning service from Watton is now live-streamed every week and can be accessed at <https://wattonmethodist.chessck.co.uk>.