

A Service of the Word for Ascension Day

Welcome

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.

Music

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.

The Ascension Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Acts 1.4-11

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

Peruvian 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!

To Him be glory forever! **To Him be glory forever!**

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

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

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!

To Him be glory forever! **To Him be glory forever!**

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

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

The Collect

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life. 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

A reading from the Prophet Daniel:

Daniel 7.9-14

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, O ruler of the nations.

Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord?

for you alone are holy.

All nations shall come and worship in your presence: for your just dealings have been revealed.

(Revelation 15.3,4)

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.**

The Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord. Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. **Alleluia.**

(cf Matthew 28.19,20)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.44-end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Nicene Creed

Let us affirm, together our common faith in our ascended and enthroned Lord, King and Saviour, Jesus Christ:

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He 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.**

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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of that glorious peace.

Prayers

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand,
and made him the head over all things for his body the Church:
hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world ...
Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us,
that we may use them to your glory,
and the building up of the body of Christ.
Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days,
you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth:
hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem ...
Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for peace,
and may strive for the reconciliation of all people
in his kingdom of justice and love.
Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always,
to the end of the age:
hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work ...
Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us,
that people may take note of us, that we have been with Jesus.
Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us:
hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need ...

May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them,
that they may find grace to help in time of need,
and rejoice in his salvation.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly
realms, and gone before us to prepare a place for us:

hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over,
and whose life is now hidden in him with you ...

Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own
we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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 trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Conclusion

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

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.

(Acts 1:12,13a,14)

Silence is kept.

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.

Music

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. 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.

Acts 1.4-11

While staying with them, he 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.'

Daniel 7.9-14

As I watched,

thrones were set in place,

and an Ancient One took his throne,

his clothing was white as snow,

and the hair of his head like pure wool;

his throne was fiery flames,

and its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued

and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him,

and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,

and the books were opened.

I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being

coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One

and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion

and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Luke 24.44-end

Then he 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 worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.