

**Ascension of the Lord (anticipated)
25 May 2022**

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting

Presider

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Collect of the Day

Presider

Let us pray.

Holy God, send your promised Spirit of revelation and wisdom, so that, in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing with joy to the One who makes us one. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Acts 1.1-11

Reader

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the

apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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 upward toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 93

Psalmist

God has gone up with a shout.

God has gone up with a shout.

¹ The Lord reigns and has put on splendid apparel;
the Lord is robed in splendour and girded with strength. *

The Lord has made the whole world so sure
that it cannot be moved;

² ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

God has gone up with a shout.

³ The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴ Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

God has gone up with a shout.

⁵ Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
for ever and for evermore.

God has gone up with a shout.

The Gospel: Luke 24.44-53

Deacon

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Intercessions, Petitions and Thanksgivings

Leader of the Prayers

Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Holy God, your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical or spiritual distress. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends and caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Gracious God, we hold before you those personal intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings that are in our hearts and minds. (*Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and requests for healing.*) In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

The Exchange of the Peace

Presider

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer you this day, and renew us in his transfigured life; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who after his glorious resurrection appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. Therefore we praise you with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honour, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider

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.

Dear friends in Christ, God bids you welcome to this table. Here we are strengthened for the journey. Here strangers become friends and the seeker finds God's wisdom speaking to them. See who you are and become what you see.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

If you are not physically receiving Communion, then offer this prayer.

In union, O God, with all your faithful people gathered wherever the eucharist is celebrated this day, I offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I pray you come into my heart, my soul and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. May I serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your promised reign of justice and peace; through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit. **Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Prayer after Communion

Presider

Let us pray.

Eternal Giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God, **whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace as witnesses to the risen and ascended Christ.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.