

# *Longford Eight Benefice*



*The Holy Eucharist  
for Ascension Day*

**Hymn** Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia

## The Gathering

God has gone up with a shout,  
**All the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

*Psalm 47.5*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

**All and also with you.**

## Introduction

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.

While staying with them, [Jesus] 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.'

*(Acts 1.4-11)*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

**All Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

The Collect

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

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**All Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

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.

*cf Matthew 28.19,20*

**All Alleluia.**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

*Luke 24.44-end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,  
seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us,  
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world *that we may  
find ways to bring your good news to those who do not know you.*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,  
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,  
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule, *give  
wisdom to all those seeking ways to overcome this global pandemic;*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,  
drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and  
sisters in need, distress or sorrow *especially those who are suffering  
from COVID-19 and those who mourning the death of loved ones.*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,  
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,  
surround with your saints and angels  
those who have died trusting your promises..

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,  
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,  
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work  
in your service, *may we hear your promptings to us.*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of  
peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your  
feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All 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

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**All may exchange a sign of peace.**

### Preparation of the Table

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.

Born of a woman,  
he came to the rescue of our human race.  
Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.  
By the glory of his resurrection  
he opened the way to life eternal  
and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope  
that where he is we may also be.

Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy  
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

**All 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit, ✠  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and,  
taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.  
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [N and] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**All 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

Lord, we died with you on the cross

**All Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.

**All Now we share in your resurrection.**

Live in us, that we may live in you.

### Invitation to Communion

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**All Blessed are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.**

## Prayer after Communion

God our Father,  
you have raised our humanity in Christ  
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:  
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,  
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All 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.

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,

**All make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**All make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

**All make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

**All make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

**All** make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,

**All** make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,

**All** make us ready for your coming Spirit.

## The Blessing

May the Spirit,

who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,

bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty, .....

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Texts from Common Worship Times and Seasons© Archbishops' Council 2011*