

The Liturgy of Ascension Day

The Gathering

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 each one of us.

Bless the Lord my Soul

https://youtu.be/DXDGE_IRI0E?list=PLT13q4q5CK-B3b-nBuUgX-Bs6Y876qyRM

Introduction

The president introduces the service using these or other suitable words

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 (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.'

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

<https://youtu.be/Ep4TLwVM9mQ>

**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. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

If the Acts reading has already been used, only one reading from Scripture precedes the Gospel reading.

At the end the reader may say

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.

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty.
- 2 Just and true are your ways, O ruler of the nations.
- 3 Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord? for you alone are holy.
- 4 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.

Gospel Reading

One of these acclamations may herald 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.

cf Matthew 28.19,20

Alleluia.

(or)

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

God has highly exalted Jesus Christ. Alleluia.
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Alleluia.
Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

cf Philippians 2.9-11

Alleluia. [Glory to God the Father.]

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.44-end

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

An authorized translation of the Nicene Creed is used.

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 ...

Lord, hear us.

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 ...

Lord, hear us.

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 ...

Lord, hear us.

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.

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 ...

Lord, hear us.

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. Amen.

(or)

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 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
and also with you.

These words may be added

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Dismissal

A hymn may be sung.

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12,13a,14)

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.

No responses are used at the end of the reading.

Silence is kept.

Responsory

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.

Silence may be kept or a reflective hymn may be sung.

The Blessing

The president may use one of these seasonal blessings, or another suitable blessing

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

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for
us at the right hand of the Father. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make
you faithful servants of Christ our King. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among us and remain with us. Amen.

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit, go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.