



Ascension Day Service

The Greeting

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
(Psalm 47:5)

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.

Reading: Luke 24:50-53

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.

Hymn:

THE HEAD THAT ONCE WAS CROWNED WITH THORNS

is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heav'n's eternal Light: 1

The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is giv'n;
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heav'n.

They suffer with the Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

The Collect

Almighty God,
your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the
good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,
that all who hear your Word
may be drawn to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading: Ephesians 1:18-23

Sermon

The Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."

And the blessing...

Amen.

Affirmation of faith

Let us affirm the faith of the Church which Christ commissions
us to share with the world

Do you believe and trust in God the Father
source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in Him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen

The Intercessions

Prayers of Intercession using this or another response

Lord, bless Your world

And fill us with Your Spirit

Intercessions may end with

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn:

THY KINGDOM COME – Lord teach us how to pray
For all to know your joy, your peace and love
And know your friendship each and every day
The breath of Christ, the Father's gentle dove

Thy Kingdom Come – Christ's prayer to make us one
That all may know the Father sent the Son
To celebrate the victory He has won
In love and grace we pray: 'thy will be done'

Thy Kingdom Come – we pray for those we know
To turn and follow you for all their days
and in your love find peace and service grow
Our one desire and hope your highest praise

Thy Kingdom Come – transform our human ways
Our lives laid down in mercy, truth and care
Nations renewed, in giving thanks and praise
To see God's Kingdom come: this is our prayer

Thy Kingdom Come – we praise your Holy name
Your sacrifice and rising sets us free
That by our words and lives we may proclaim
By Jesus' risen life, God's victory!

Words: Neil Hamilton Thompson, Chris Russell, Emma Buchan, Harvey Jessop Music:
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Praise and Thanksgiving

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.