

The Liturgy of Ascension Day Hemel Hempstead Deanery 21st May 2020

The Gathering

Hymn: Hail the day that sees him rise

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
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, 1:4-11
At the end the reader says
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

**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

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.** *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.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

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.

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here:

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The prayer continues ...

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

The prayer continues ...

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

The prayer continues ... and concludes:

...through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with
whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all
honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.

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.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the
benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults
you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive
you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into
my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and
brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more
dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

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.

Amen.

**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

Hymn: Crown him with many crowns.

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:12,13a,14
No responses are used at the end of the reading.

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,
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.

