

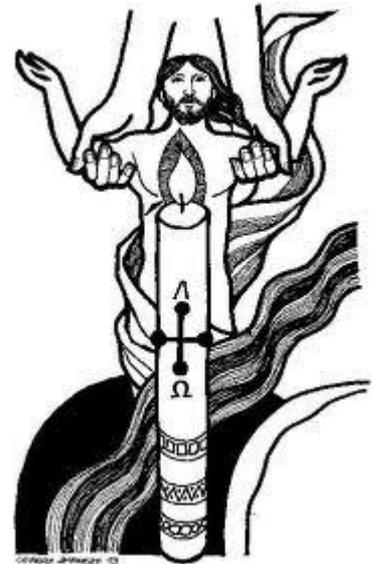
Street Parish Benefice

The Liturgy of Ascension Day

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.

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 (1.4-11)
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.'

At the end the reader says

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.

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.

Gospel Reading

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.44-end

44 Then Jesus 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." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** 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, **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** 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.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Closing 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.

Responsory

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,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

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

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.