

FEAST OF ASCENSION LITURGY

Welcome

Call To Worship

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, graciously hear us.

Jesus, King of glory, your disciples saw you ascend into heaven:

Have mercy on us.

You are seated in glory at the right hand of the Father:

Have mercy on us.

All power in heaven and earth has been given to you, and you rule forever:

Have mercy on us.

All creation sings your praises

Have mercy on us.

In love you have given us the Kingdom

Have mercy on us.

Your gentle rule brings us grace and hope

Have mercy on us.

You give us what we need

Have mercy on us.

Through your Word and sacraments:

Have mercy on us.

You have gone to prepare a place for us:

Have mercy on us.

You will come again in glory to judge the living and dead:

Have mercy on us.

You will take us to yourself, so that where you are, there we may be also:

Have mercy on us.

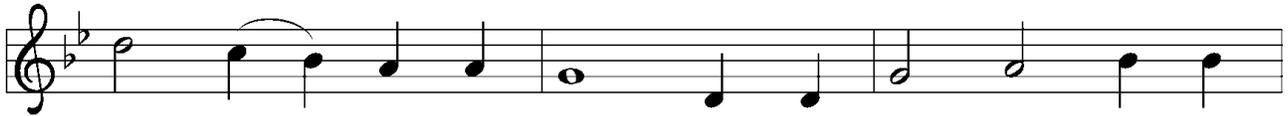
Grant us your Spirit and power

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy and restore us Good Lord. May we know your nearness and live in your light. May we live in your promises and share your Good News to the end of the earth, as you have commanded us in love. Amen.



1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, first - be -
 2 Though the low - liest form now veil you as of
 3 Pas - chal Lamb, your of - f'ring, fin - ished once for
 4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, strick - en



got - ten from the dead, you a - lone, our strong de -
 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there your an - gels
 all when you were slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 rock with stream - ing side, heav'n and earth with loud ho -



fend - er, lift - ing up your peo - ple's head. Al - le -
 hail you, branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le -
 min - ished shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le -
 san - na wor - ship you, the Lamb who died, Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! cleans - ing souls from
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ris'n, as - cend - ed,



liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 join with them; we in wor - ship join with them.
 ev - 'ry stain; cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
 glo - ri - fied; ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken up into heaven and in power intercedes for us. May we also come into your presence and live forever in your glory; though your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

C. Amen

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

Psalm 47

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and

what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

Litany for the Ascension of Our Lord:

P. Let us pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at his ascension, seated him at the right hand of power and glory in the heavens.

(pause for silence)

O God, Creator of the world, who blesses us in every way and provides for our daily need:

C. Have mercy and hear us.

P. O God, Redeemer of the world, who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead to sit at your right hand in glory so that we might have an advocate in heaven:

C. Have mercy and hear us.

P. O God, Sanctifier of the world, who sends the Holy Spirit that we might be made holy in faith and through the remembrance of all that our ascended Lord has taught us:

C. Have mercy and hear us.

P. Holy Trinity, One God:

C. Give ear to our prayers and supplications.

P. For your only Son, who lived and died that we might have eternal life with you:

C. We give you thanks, O Lord.

P. For his glorious resurrection and the proclamation of the gospel of his holy name:

C. We give you thanks, O Lord.

P. For his ascension into heaven where you have placed all things in heaven and on earth under his dominion:

C. We give you thanks, O Lord.

P. For his promise that he has gone to prepare a place for us:

C. We give you thanks, O Lord.

P. For the promise of the angels that he will return in the same way that we saw him go into heaven:

C. We give you thanks, O Lord.

A. Baptized into his name, we are your humble servants, O God.

C. Hearken to the words of our petitions:

P. That we who are raised with Christ may set our hearts on things above, not on things below.

C. Conform us to Christ.

P. That we might be filled with the promised Holy Spirit and inspired to proclaim Christ's resurrection and ascension in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

C. Conform us to Christ.

P. That, keeping his commandments, we might abide in him and he in us.

C. Conform us to Christ.

P. That we might be found faithful and blameless through repentance and the forgiveness of sins when he returns in glory.

C. Conform us to Christ.

P. That, at the last, we may stand around his heavenly throne and sing his eternal praises with all the angelic host;

C. Conform us to Christ.

P. Let all your angels worship him, O God.

C. Bend every knee in heaven and on earth at the sound of his holy name.

P. He is our high priest and intercessor in the heavens.

C. He has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

P. Almighty God, all your works are glorious. But none is more glorious than the work of your Son, our ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. As you raised him from the dead and seated him at your right hand in power, so keep us ever close to his resurrection and ascension, that we too might be raised and seated with him in your heavenly kingdom; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

Offering

Offertory Anthem “O Sons and Daughters” arr. T. M. Horton

The Lord’s Prayer

SENDING

Solemn Blessings for Ascension Day:

P. May almighty God bless you with the knowledge that his only Son has ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you.

C. Amen.

P. May you be lifted up and guided by Christ's intercession at God's right hand.

C. Amen

P. At Christ's promised return, may you be found blameless and welcomed into the joys of God's eternal kingdom.

C. Amen

P. And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

A. Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn Hail the Day that See's Him Rise (vs. 1-4)



1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. There for him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
3. High - est heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. See, he lifts his hands a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
5. Still for us he in - ter - cedes, Al - le - lu - ia!
6. There we shall with him re - main, Al - le - lu - ia!



To his throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates; Al - le - lu - ia!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; Al - le - lu - ia!
See, he shows the prints of love. Al - le - lu - ia!
His pre - vail - ing death he pleads, Al - le - lu - ia!
Part - ners of his end - less reign; Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
He has con - quered death and sin; Al - le - lu - ia!
Though re - turn - ing to his throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
Hark, his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!
Near him - self pre - pares our place, Al - le - lu - ia!
There his face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!



Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Take the King of glo - ry in. Al - le - lu - ia!
Still he calls the world his own. Al - le - lu - ia!
Bless - ings on his church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
He the first fruits of our race. Al - le - lu - ia!
Live with him e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!