**Ascension Day Eucharist**

**The Staughtons with Hail Weston**

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**The Liturgy of Ascension Day**

**Hymn**

¶    *The Gathering* [↑](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/easter#block-cofe-content)

God has gone up with a shout,

*All*   **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

*Psalm 47.5*

*The president may say*

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*   **Amen.**

**The Greeting**

*The president greets the people.*

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

*All*   **and also with you.**

**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.’

*At the end the reader says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All*   **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*A minister says*

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.*

*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**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.

*Silence is kept.*

Grant, we pray, almighty God,

that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ

to have ascended into the heavens,

so we in heart and mind may also ascend

and with him continually dwell;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All*   **Amen.**

¶    *The Liturgy of the Word* [↑](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/easter#block-cofe-content)

**Reading**

*Only one reading from Scripture precedes the Gospel reading.*

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*   **Thanks be to God**

**Hymn.**

**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*

*All*   **Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

*All*   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 24.44-end*

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Creed**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is,**

**seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**

**and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come.**

**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.**

¶    *The Liturgy of the Sacrament* [↑](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/easter#block-cofe-content)

**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

*All*   **and also with you.**

*These words may be added*

*Minister*  Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

Hymn

**Preparation of the Table**

**Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Blessed be God,

by whose grace creation is renewed,

by whose love heaven is opened,

by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

*All*   **Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

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The Lord is here.

*All*   **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All*   **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*   **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,

our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ the King of glory.

Born of a woman,

he came to the rescue of our human race.

Dying for us,

he trampled death and conquered sin.

By the glory of his resurrection

he opened the way to life eternal

and by his ascension,

gave us the sure hope

that where he is we may also be.

Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy

and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

*All*   **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.]**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me

.

In the same way, after supper

he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

 Great is the mystery of faith

All   **Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*All*   **Amen.**

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father,

we thy humble servants,

having in remembrance

the precious death and passion of thy dear Son,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

entirely desire thy fatherly goodness

mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;

most humbly beseeching thee to grant that

by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ,

and through faith in his blood,

we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins,

and all other benefits of his passion.

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins,

to offer unto thee any sacrifice,

yet we beseech thee

to accept this our bounden duty and service,

not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences;

and to grant that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion,

may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction;

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 unto thee,

O Father almighty,

world without end.

All   **Amen.**

  **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

  **Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All   **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.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

*All*   **Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.

*All*   **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Live in us, that we may live in you.

**Giving of Communion**

*The president says*

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

*All*   **Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

**Alleluia.**

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**Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said*

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.

*All*   **Amen.**

*All*   **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* [↑](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/easter#block-cofe-content)

Hymn

**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,

*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.**

*Silence may be kept*

**The Blessing**

God the Father who has given to his Son the name above every name,

strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

*All*   **Amen.**

God the Son,

who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,

plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

*All*   **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,

who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,

make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

*All*   **Amen.**

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**

*A minister says*

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*All*   **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**