

The Eucharist on Ascension Day

The Gathering

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

God has gone up with a shout,

All: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All: and also with you.

Hymn

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.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.' (1.4-11)

At the end the reader says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

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. Amen.

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.' 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:44-end)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

At the end of the intercessions:

Merciful Father,

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

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Prayers at the 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.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 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.**

We praise and bless you,
loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his
friends and,
taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread,
gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life
and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death
and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes and justice
and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
Gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
John the Baptist all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ,
and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever.
All: 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

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.

The choir will sing the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God):

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

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.

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

Reading

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. (Acts
1:12,13a,14)

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.

The Blessing and Dismissal

God the Father,

who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

God the Son,

who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

God the Holy Spirit,

who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn