

An Evening Service for Ascension Day

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

And also with you

Christ departs

But love's fragrance ever lingers

Death is conquered

Fear has lost its power

A human heart now lives in God

The fulness we long for, we shall now receive.



Hymn 166 Crown him with many crowns

Confession

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love
with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing that we are not worthy yet,
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness:

O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:

Holy is your name.

**We are sorry for the times we have not cared for your world
and its people;**

**forgive us, and help us to live as worthy members of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

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 Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you'
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Ascended Lord,
you have made us living stones of the temple you are to build.

We offer all that we are and all that we have to you.

King of Glory,

Enoble us.

King of Grace,

Cherish us

King of Life,

Renew us.

King of Promise,

Surprise us.

First reading

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1.1-11

Canticle: the Song of Christ's Glory

Christ Jesus, though you were in the form of God
You did not cling to equality with God.

**You emptied yourself,
taking the form of a servant;
You were born in human likeness**

Being found in human form
You humbled yourself and became obedient,
even to death on a cross.

**Therefore God has highly exalted you
and given you a name above every other name.**

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Second reading

Jesus said to the disciples, '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 24.44-53

Reflection

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Ascended Lord,
You call those who follow you to a time of waiting,
that they may be able to receive the gifts
You delight to shower in your church,
and to receive the empowering Spirit.
Take from us obstinate ways.
Give us receptive hearts.
Make us fertile ground.

**Promised Spirit,
come as the dew in the night,
come as the rain in dry land,
come as the fire in hours of cold,
come as light in the dark.
Holy Spirit,
come, renew our tired frames,
turn our deserts into pools of water,
renew us your image of love.**

the Blessing

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts
and bring you to reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Stay in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.