



Common Worship
Ascension Day



Structure

The people and the priest

- ✠ greet each other in the Lord's name
- ✠ keep silence and pray a Collect
- ✠ proclaim and respond to the word of God
- ✠ pray for the Church and the world
- ✠ exchange the Peace
- ✠ prepare the table
- ✠ pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- ✠ break the bread
- ✠ receive communion
- ✠ depart with God's blessing

The Gathering

Words of welcome

The Greeting

The president greets the people

All God has gone up with a great shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet

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

All **Amen**

Hymn

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

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.

The deacon 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

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

Let us pray

Silence is kept

The Collect is said, and all respond

All Amen.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

Reading

At the end of the Scripture reading

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

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.

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

The deacon says

Let us stand to declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**All 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

These responses may be used

Lord, hear, us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

(or)

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

The president introduces 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*

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The deacon says

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

*The table is prepared and bread and wine
are placed upon it.*

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

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 president takes the bread and wine.

With this bread that we bring
All we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
All we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
All We shall remember Jesus.

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 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.**

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.

All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

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 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.

Silence is kept

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.

**All Jesus, Lamb of God; have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world; grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

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.**

The president and people receive communion.

Please come forward, as invited, to receive communion.

If you are a visitor, and have been baptised, you are very welcome to take communion with us here. If you do not receive communion then we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The president leads the Post Communion Prayer

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

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.

Responsory

All As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we long for your renewing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

The president prays

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 deacon says

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

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

The ministers and people depart.



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