



**St. Michael and All Angels
Amersham on the Hill**



**HOLY EUCHARIST
ASCENSION DAY**

A warm welcome to this service

This booklet is designed for use on Ascension Day and includes guidance notes. Do please ask a “Welcomer” if you need any further help.

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is part of the great fifty days of Easter. It celebrates the withdrawal of Christ into heaven, witnessed by the Apostles. According to tradition, it took place on the Mount of Olives. Luke 24 seems to imply that the Ascension occurred on the evening of Easter Day, but according to Acts 1 it occurred forty days later.

It marked the solemn close of the post-resurrection appearances and the exaltation of Christ to the heavenly life after he had spoken to his apostles of 'the things concerning the Kingdom of God'.

The Gathering

Please stand, if able.

President God is gone up with a shout,
All **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
All **and also with you.**

Please sit.

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 kindly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

Acclamation

All Christ has gone up on high.
Alleluia!
All God raised Christ from the dead
and enthroned him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.
All God put all things in subjection beneath his feet
and gave him as head over all things to the Church.
When Christ, who is our life, is revealed,
then we too will be revealed with him in glory.
All Christ has gone up on high.
Alleluia!

Gloria in Excelsis

Please stand, if able.

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 priest gathers together, or collects, our prayers.

President

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

Please sit.

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1, 4-11)

While staying with the apostles, Jesus 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.'

All For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Canticle

All **All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ, and share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,
O ruler of the nations.

Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord?
for you alone are holy.

All nations shall come and worship in your presence: for your just dealings have been revealed.

All **To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.**

All **All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ, and share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Gospel Reading

Please turn to face the Gospel.

Deacon Alleluia.

All **Alleluia.**

God has highly exalted Jesus Christ.

All **Alleluia.**

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.

All **Alleluia.**

Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

All **Alleluia. Glory to God the Father.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Please sit.

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand, if able.

President Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel to pray.

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,
seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world...
Jesus Christ, pray to the Father.

All **Jesus Christ, send us the Spirit.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the
right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world,
and make it subject to your gentle rule...

Jesus Christ, pray to the Father.

All **Jesus Christ, send us the Spirit.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow...
Jesus Christ, pray to the Father.

All **Jesus Christ, send us the Spirit.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises...

Jesus Christ, pray to the Father.
All **Jesus Christ, send us the Spirit.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us
for work in your service...

Jesus Christ, pray to the Father.
All **Jesus Christ, send us the Spirit.**

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created
order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand, if able.

*For those who would like to, you are welcome to join hands as we
sing or say the Peace.*

President Jesus says, 'Peace is my parting gift to you,
my own peace, such as the world cannot give.
Trust in God always, trust also in me'.

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

President 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**

Eucharistic Prayer F

Please remain standing, if able.

President 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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your
prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and saying/singing:

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 God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with St. Michael and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, Almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit or kneel.

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, in our own language, as our
Saviour has taught us, so we pray

All

**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.**

The 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.**

Giving of Communion

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.
After receiving the bread and the wine, please respond "Amen"
or, if you would like a blessing, please place your hands across
your chest.*

Prayer after Communion

President 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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12,13a,14)

Deacon 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.

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.

Blessing

President Christ our king, make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may 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.
All **Amen.**

Deacon Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Material from the following may be included in this service: *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), *Patterns for Worship* (1995), *New Patterns for Worship* (2002), *Times and Seasons* (2006), *The Promise of His Glory* (1991) all copyright © The Archbishops' Council; *Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1 & 2* (2015) © The Northumbria Community Trust; *Enriching the Christian Year* (SPCK, 1993) compilation © Michael Perham. CCL No 908682.

