

**Ascension Day Service**  
8pm 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

**Greeting**

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

**Introduction**

**Reading: Acts 1: 4–11 (NIV)**

*<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit."*

*<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

*<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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."*

*<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

*<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"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."*

**Song: Before the Throne of God Above**

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heaven He stands

No tongue can bid me thence  
depart  
No tongue can bid me thence  
depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

**The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the  
Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Reading – Luke 24 :44–53

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

### 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 forever.

### Talk

#### Prayers and 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.**

### Song: There is a Higher Throne

There is a higher throne  
Than all this world has known,  
Where faithful ones from every tongue  
Will one day come.  
Before the Son we'll stand,  
Made faultless through the Lamb;  
Believing hearts find promised grace—  
Salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing;  
Their thunderous anthem rings  
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies.  
Their praises rise.  
All glory, wisdom, power,  
Strength, thanks, and honour are  
To God our King, who reigns on high  
Forevermore.*

And there we'll find our home,  
Our life before the throne;  
We'll honour Him in perfect song  
Where we belong.  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye  
As thirst and hunger die.  
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;  
We'll reign with Him.

### Blessing

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.  
**Amen.**