



## The Ascension of Christ

*“While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.”*

*(Luke 24:50-53)*

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### God Calls us to Worship

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

**Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!**

*(Ps 47.5-7)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## *Psalm 45*

O King, you are most worthy,  
of men you are the best  
Your words are true and gracious,  
you are forever blessed  
Take up your sword in splendour,  
ride forth in majesty  
For justice and mercy  
and true humility  
Your arrows pierce your enemies,  
you march across the land  
The peoples and the nations  
against you cannot stand

Your throne will last forever,  
with justice you shall reign  
You love all that is righteous  
and hate all evil gain  
So God has richly blessed you  
with joy abundantly  
Your robes are all fragrant,  
your courts are ivory  
There princesses attend you,  
sweet music from of old  
Your future queen awaits you  
arrayed in finest gold

O bride forsake all others,  
don't give your love abroad  
The king desires your beauty;  
so honour him your Lord  
The gown he gives is glorious,  
the threads are twined with gold  
In shimmering colours  
the envy of the world  
A joyful crowd is with her,  
with gladness now they sing  
And finally she enters  
the palace of the king

This king will reign forever,  
his sons upon the earth  
And ev'ry generation will tell  
of his great worth  
All nations will soon praise him  
and fall down at his feet  
His kingdom established,  
where truth and mercy meet  
O Jesus we adore you,  
our lover and our king  
Your church, your bride is waiting  
and so to you we sing

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## We Confess and Are Assured

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)*

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

*Please kneel or be seated.*

### *Prayer of Confession*

**Almighty and most merciful God,  
We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,  
And that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;  
Not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires  
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.  
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,  
Seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

### *Assurance of Pardon*

*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)*

*“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isa 35:10)*

## Psalm 24

**The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age. Amen!**

## God Speaks to us Through His Word

*First Reading: Daniel 7:1-3, 9-14, "The Son of Man Reigns"*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Second Reading: Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-11*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: The Ascension of Christ (Mark Payne)*

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## We Respond to God's Word

### *The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns*

The head that once was  
crowned with thorns  
is crowned with glory now;  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty Victor's brow.

To them the cross,  
with all its shame,  
with all its grace, is giv'n;  
their name an everlasting name,  
their joy the joy of heav'n.

The highest place that heav'n affords  
is his, is his by right,  
the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
and heav'n's eternal Light:

They suffer with the Lord below,  
they reign with him above;  
their profit and their joy to know  
the myst'ry of his love.

The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,  
to whom he manifests his love,  
and grants his name to know.

The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.

*Thomas Kelly, 1820*

### *The Nicene Creed*

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*

*After each petition:*

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

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever,  
Amen.**

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# We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

## *Invitation to the Table*

*All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

## *Gifts and Offerings*

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)*

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

*The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.*

*Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.*

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your dear Son,  
Jesus Christ.**

**Through him, we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## *Psalm 57*

Be Thou, O God, exalted high;  
And as Your glory fills the sky,  
So let it be on earth displayed,  
Till You are here, as there, obeyed;  
Till You are here, as there, obeyed.

O God, my heart is fixed, 'tis bent  
Its thankful tribute to present;  
And, with my heart, my voice I'll raise  
To You, my God, in songs of praise;  
To You, my God, in songs of praise.

Awake, my glory; harp and lute,  
No longer let your strings be mute;  
And I, my tuneful part to take,  
Will with the early dawn awake;  
Will with the early dawn awake.

Your praises, Lord, I will resound  
To all the list'ning nations 'round;  
Your mercy highest heav'n transcends;  
Your truth beyond the clouds extends;  
Your truth beyond the clouds extends

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## **We Are Blessed and Sent Out to the World**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,  
Amen.**