

# Ascension Day

## INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **128** *New English Hymnal*

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

*All respond: Amen.*

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

**And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The priest introduces the Liturgy of Ascension.*

*The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.*

You have ascended to God's right hand.  
Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

You pour on us the gifts of the Spirit.  
Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You sustain us with the power of your word.  
Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us ✠ our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is sung.*

**Glorify 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.**

*All remain standing for 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 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Acts 1.1–11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you 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, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was

lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 47*

℟. Jesus reigns, our Lord and King. (*All repeat*)

Let all nations clap their hands,  
sing to God with hymns of praise.  
For the Lord is high and to be adored,  
the great King over all the earth. ℟.

He is gone up with shouts of joy,  
the trumpet sounds as the Lord ascends.

O sing praises to our God,  
sing praises to our King. ℟.

For God is King of all the earth,  
his mighty acts shall be proclaimed.  
The Lord is King over all the world,  
he reigns in glory on his throne. ℟.

SECOND READING

*Eph 1.15–23*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right

hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN— **388**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Mt 28.19,20*

*Alleluia.*

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord:

remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*Alleluia.*

GOSPEL READING

*Lk 24.44–53*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are 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 blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped

him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

A SERMON *may follow.*

*All stand to recite 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, *(all bow)* was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. *(all rise)* 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.**

*The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. This response is used:*  
‡. Lord, hear us. ℣. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The Intercessions end:*  
... one God, now and for ever. ℣. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All stand as the priest introduces the* PEACE.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN— **352**

*The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the* PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

We offer you this sacrifice, Lord, on the feast of your Son's ascension, praying that through this holy exchange of gifts we may rise with him to the joys of heaven; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.**

*The* PREFACE *follows.*

*All respond with the* SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

**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.**

*All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:*  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying, you destroyed our death;**

**rising, you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:*  
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## RITE OF COMMUNION

*The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.*

**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.**

*The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.*

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**

*The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Holy Communion is distributed.*

COMMUNION HYMN— **133**

*The priest says 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. **Amen.**

## CONCLUSION

*The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN— **134**

14-5,26