



Ascension Day Benefice Eucharist



Newbury, St George & St John

ASCENSION DAY EUCCHARIST



The Gathering

A minister welcomes us informally before the start of the Service. After the welcome, a time of silence is kept for prayer, preparing ourselves for worship.

The presiding priest says:

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

Amen.

The Greeting

The presiding priest greets the people:

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

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 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.

Acts 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.”

Alleluia Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Collect

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.

Silence is kept.

Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia.
Remember I am with you always to the end of the age. **Alleluia.**

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

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Luke 24. 44-end

Then he said to them, "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 worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the church, creation, the peoples of the world and their leaders, our local community, family and friends, those who are sick or suffering, and those who have recently died.

This response is used at the end of each prayer.

Petition Christ in Glory

Response **Hear our Prayer**

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The presiding priest 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

and also with you. Alleluia

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The presiding priest takes the bread and wine and praises God in
these or similar words:*

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

[Eucharistic Prayer E]

The presiding priest says:

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

**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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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 St George, St John and 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. **Amen.**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The presiding priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

We say the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

**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.**

Giving of Communion

The presiding priest says this invitation to communion:

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Alleluia.

The presiding priest and people receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The presiding priest says a Post Communion collect or 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.

**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

Anticipating Pentecost

“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.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Blessing

As we look heavenward to
find our humanity taken into the heart of the Trinity,
may the coming 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.

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



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