

Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension tide



Welcome

Please join in all the words in bold.

God has gone up with a shout

Praise the Lord with the sound of a trumpet

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

Amen

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

And also with you.

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.

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

Hymn

As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here.
Joined by the spirit, washed in the blood
Part of the body, the church of God.
As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here.

Collect

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confession

God our Father,
We come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father forgive us.

All Save us and help us

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do and think and say;
Father, forgive us

All Save us and help us

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us.

All Save us and help us

Absolution

May the God of love bring you back to himself, forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

The Ascension Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1.6-14

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; 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.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath's day journey away. When they had entered the city they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, John and James son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealot, and Judas, son of James. All these were

constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

At the end the reader says:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

[Rowland Prichard](#)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus, out of every nation,
has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of angels
Here on earth our help, our stay;
Alleluia! Hear the sinful
Come to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless

Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, king eternal,
He the lord of lords we own:
Alleluia, born of Mary,
Earth his footstool, heaven his throne;
He within the veil has entered
Robed in flesh our great high priest;
He on earth both priest and victim
In the Eucharistic feast.

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

The Great Commission

A reading from Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon - Bishop Jo



We renew our commitment to our reigning Lord

Let us affirm the faith of the Church which Christ commissions us to share with the world

Do you believe and trust in God the Father source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in Him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

Intercessions – led by Sarah

A Key feature of Thy Kingdom Come is the commitment to pray for five people to come to know Jesus. The intercessions include space for people to pray silently for their five people, or to consider who the five we are praying for might be.

Lord, bless Your world
All **And fill us with Your Spirit**

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

The Lord's Prayer – (*You will hear only the leader's voice and your own*)

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, let us pray
with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.**

Responsory

As we wait in silence,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

As we listen to Your word,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

As we worship You in majesty,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

As we long for Your refreshing,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

As we long for Your renewing,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

As we long for Your equipping,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

As we long for Your empowering,

All: Make us ready for Your coming Spirit.

The 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 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.

Let us bless the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

There will be a short time of music, then the zoom service will stay open for a short time for coffee, biscuit and a chat – wherever you are...

(You can leave the service whenever you choose by clicking on **leave the meeting**)

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome24may to find materials and support for families relating to this week's readings

A little more about Thy Kingdom Come...

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of those they know
- Come to realise that every aspect of their life is the stuff of prayer

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the past three years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the country to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in ‘Thy Kingdom Come ’before or not, we invite you to take part – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in over 170 countries around the world.