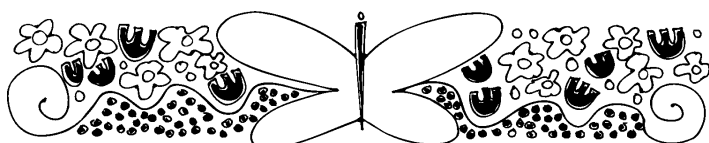




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## The Ascension of our Lord



The Ascension of our Lord

**May 14, 2015**



### The Liturgy of The Holy Eucharist

(as adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book)

#### Gathering

*Love one another*

#### Love One Another

Love one another, for love is of God.  
He who loves is born of God, and knows God.  
He who does not love does not know God,  
For God is love, God is love.

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*Celebrant* Grace and peace to you from God.  
*People* **God fill you with truth and joy.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **The Lord bless you.**

*Celebrant* This is the day which the Lord has made.

*People* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

#### *A Reader*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace when we are in need of help.

*The Celebrant then says*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy Name; through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Christ is the good shepherd  
Who knows and cares for every one of the sheep in different folds.

In Christ there is neither Jew or Gentile;  
In Christ there is no discrimination of gender, class or race.

In Christ the poor are blessed, the simple receive truth hidden from the wise.

*People*

**Alleluia!**

**God of justice and compassion,  
you give us work to do  
and a baptism of suffering and resurrection.  
From you comes power to give to others  
the care we have ourselves received  
so that we, and all who love your world,  
may live in harmony and trust.**

*Celebrant*

Hear the teaching of Christ:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

*People*

**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

#### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### A Reading from Acts

(1:1-11)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 47

(Read in unison after the first asterisk)

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
**shout to God with a cry of joy.**
- 2 **For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.**
- 3 **He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.**
- 4 **He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**
- 5 **God has gone up with a shout, \* the  
LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.**
- 6 **Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
- 7 **For God is King of all the earth; \* sing  
praises with all your skill.**
- 8 **God reigns over the nations; \* God sits  
upon his holy throne.**
- 9 **The nobles of the peoples have gathered  
together \* with the people of the God of  
Abraham.**
- 10 **The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.**

### A Reading from Ephesians

(1:15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Song**

*Praise the name of Jesus*

Praise the Name of Jesus

Praise the name of Jesus, Praise the name of Jesus.

He's my rock, He's my fortress, He's my deliverer.

In Him will I trust. Praise the name of Jesus.

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## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Luke**

(24:44-53)

### **Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus said to his 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, 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.

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

## **The Homily**

Fr. Haynes

*Silence for reflection*

## **An Affirmation of Faith** (Standing, as able.)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcame death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

## **Prayers of the People**

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church: (the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

Father, enliven the Church for its mission  
**that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

Breathe fresh life into your people.

**Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

(the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

**That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

**Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

(the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

We pray for the community:

(the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others  
**that all may act with integrity and courage.**

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

**May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves.**

We pray for those in need:

(the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

God of hope and comfort, restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

**May they know the power of your healing love.**

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

**Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.**

We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

(the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

**Father, into your hands we commend them.**

Give comfort to those who mourn.

**Bring them peace in their time of loss.**

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

**May their example inspire and encourage us.**

We pray for ourselves and our ministries:

(the people offer out loud intercessions and thanksgivings)

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

**Grant that we may walk in your presence:  
your love in our hearts,  
your truth in our minds,  
your strength in our wills;  
until, at the end of our journey,  
we know the joy of our homecoming  
and the welcome of your embrace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*In keeping with the ancient custom of the Church, the confession is omitted during the Great Fifty Days of Easter.*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The Peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*After the Peace is exchanged, the Celebrant continues*

Brothers and sisters, we are the body of Christ.

**By one Spirit we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**

## **Offertory Song**

*Lord, Be Glorified*

### Lord, Be Glorified

1. In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
2. In your Church.....
3. In my home.....
4. In my work...
5. In my faith.....
6. In my life.....

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*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have these gifts to  
share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for  
the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is here.

*People* **God's Spirit is with us.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation,  
holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all  
times and in all places to give you thanks and  
praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through  
your eternal Word you have created all things from  
the beginning and formed us in your own image;  
male and female you created us.

You raised him to life triumphant over death; you  
exalted him in glory, and gave him the name which  
is above every name: at the name of Jesus every  
knee shall bow and every tongue confess that he is  
Lord. In him you have made us a holy people by  
sending upon us your holy and life giving Spirit.

When we sinned and turned away you called us  
back to yourself and gave your Son to share our  
human nature. By his death on the cross, he made  
the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world  
and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised  
him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him  
in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by  
sending upon us your holy and life giving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with  
angels and archangels and all the company of  
heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on  
the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took  
bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it,  
gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is  
my body which is given for you; do this to  
remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given  
you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this,  
all of you, for 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,  
to remember me.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show  
forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your  
coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore loving God, recalling your great  
goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death,  
his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his  
coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with  
this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept  
our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we  
offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and  
wine which we receive may be to us the body and  
blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's  
grace and power, may be renewed for the service  
of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in  
earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs  
of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and  
everywhere, now and forever. AMEN**

## Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*

As Christ teaches us, we pray,

**Our father in heaven  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread and Holy Communion

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then is said*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The communicants share the Bread and the Cup with these words*

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for you. **Amen.**

*This is our Lord's Table, and He is our host. Gluten free hosts and alcohol free wine are available upon request.*

## Communion Music

Surely the Presence/In Moments like these

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,  
I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

In moments like these, I sing out a song.  
I sing out a love song to Jesus.  
In moments like these, I lift up my hands.  
I lift up my hands to the Lord, singing,  
I love you, Lord; singing, I love you, Lord;  
Singing, I love you Lord. I love you.

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## Prayer After Communion

*Celebrant*

Jesus said, 'I am with you always, to the end of the world.'

Let us pray:

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal Giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim. Amen.**

## The Blessing

May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and also of earth, lift up your hearts, lift up your lives to God and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant*      Go now to love and serve the Lord.  
Go in peace.

*People*          **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

## Procession to the Neighborhood

*Our God Reigns*

### Our God Reigns

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him  
Who brings good news, good news.  
Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness.  
Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

#### **Refrain:**

Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!  
Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

It was our sin and guilt that bruised and wounded  
Him  
It was our sin that brought Him down.  
When we like sheep had gone astray,  
Our Shepherd came, And on His shoulders bore our  
shame.

#### **Refrain**

Out from the tomb He came with grace and majesty  
He is alive, He is alive.  
God loves us so, see here His hands, His feet, His  
side.  
Yes we know, He is alive.

#### **Refrain**

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