



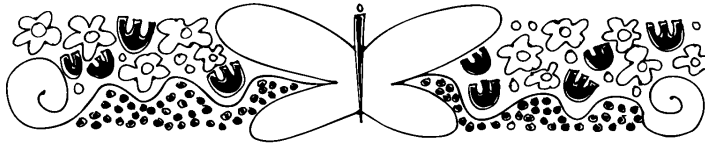
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The Ascension of our Lord

May 18, 2023

The Liturgy of The Holy Eucharist

(as adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book)

Gathering

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

- 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.

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

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.**

Following the Peace, 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

Our Ascension Day loose cash offerings go to our Outreach Fund, which directly funds outreach projects and partnerships within our community.



Offertory Song

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

Celebrant 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

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, 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.

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.

All persons are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion in one or both of the elements or receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts and alcohol-free wine are also available. If you have yet to be baptized and are interested in learning more about this sacrament, please see one of the clergy following the liturgy.

If you do not wish to come forward for Communion or a blessing, or if you are attending the liturgy virtually, you are invited to pray the following from The St. Augustine's Prayer Book.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

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.**

Procession to the Neighborhood

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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Celebrant Go now to love and serve the Lord.

Go in peace.

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