

# The Eucharist Ascension Day



Thursday 13 May 2021  
1.10 pm

## **Welcome to Manchester Cathedral on Ascension Day**

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ.

On the fortieth day there has - from the late fourth century - been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.



### **Hearing-loop**

Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

### **Have you turned off your mobile phone?**

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

### **Photography**

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

### **Gluten-free wafers**

If you require a gluten-free communion wafer please inform a steward before the service, and ask the administrant for one when you go forward to receive communion. Please note that the wine may contain traces of gluten.

### **President**

Canon David Holgate

### **Preacher**

The Rev'd Andrew Wickens

**Large-print copies of this booklet are also available.**

# The Gathering

*Please stand*

## The Greeting

President God has gone up with a shout,  
All **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

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

*Please sit*

## Introduction

President 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 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.

## The Ascension Reading

Acts 1.1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, Jesus 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.'

*At the end of the reading*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

President Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

### **Gloria in excelsis**

All **Glory to 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.**

*Please stand*

## **The Collect**

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

*Silence is kept.*

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 is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **Reading**

Ephesians 1.15-end

### **A reading from the Letter of Ephesians.**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards 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.

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 24.44-end

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

All **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, 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*At the end of the reading*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit*

**Sermon**

The Rev'd Andrew Wickens

*A period of silence is kept after the sermon for reflection.*

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ, seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,  
living for ever to intercede for us,  
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...  
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,  
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,  
pray for the world,  
and make it subject to your gentle rule ...  
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,  
drawing humanity into the life of God,  
pray for your brothers and sisters in need,  
distress or sorrow ...  
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,  
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,  
surround with your saints and angels  
those who have died trusting your promises ...  
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,  
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,  
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us  
for work in your service ...  
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

All           **Amen.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

President    Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed  
              into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God,  
              let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith,  
              and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

*Silence is kept*

All           **Our Father,**  
              **we have sinned against heaven and against you.**  
              **We are not worthy to be called your children.**  
              **We turn to you again.**  
              **Have mercy on us,**  
              **bring us back to yourself**  
              **as those who once were dead**  
              **but now have life through Christ our Lord.**  
              **Amen.**

President    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.  
              **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand*

## *Coronavirus Information*

*Following advice issued by the Church of England, in order to minimise the spread of infection we ask that you do not shake hands during the Peace.*

## The Peace

President 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'.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.

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

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President 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 say for ever to your praise:

All        **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

President    Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Deacon      Great is the mystery of faith:  
All        **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

President    And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

All            **Amen.**

*Please sit and continue to pray.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

President    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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

President Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All **Now we are raised to new life.**

President We were buried in your tomb.

All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

President Live in us, that we may live in you.

## **The Giving of Communion**

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

All **Blessed are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.**

## **Prayer for Spiritual Holy Communion**

Loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries, we have gathered today to worship you by hearing your holy word, breaking the bread of life and blessing the cup of salvation to share in your body and blood. We gladly offer you ourselves now to thank you for all that you have done for us. Though we cannot eat of the bread of life and drink from the cup of blessing today, we thank you that we are living members of the body of Christ, and united with your dear Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in each of us and fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit.

*Canon David Holgate, adapted from 1 Cor 10-12*

**Please bring your offering with you and place it in the collection tray as you come up for communion.**

**Online worshippers may donate via this link**

**[www.manchestercathedral.org/get-involved/donate](http://www.manchestercathedral.org/get-involved/donate)**

**Thank you for your kindness and generosity.**

**Following advice issued by the Church of England, in order to minimise the spread of infection, communicants will receive only the bread at communion which will be placed on your hands.**

## Prayer after Communion

President 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.

All **Amen.**

All **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.**

## Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1.12, 13a, 14

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

*No response is used at the end of the reading.*

*Silence is kept*

### Responsory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Silence may be kept*

### **The Blessing**

President Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance  
of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
All **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Deacon Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the readings and  
prayers, and as a reminder of your visit.*



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