



THE LITURGY OF  
THE ASCENSION  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020

*The setting of the Mass is the Christchurch Mass by Malcolm Archer*

## **THE GATHERING**

*The choir sings Viri Galilæi by Patrick Gowers*

Alleluia.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven, as he went up:  
behold, two men stood by them in white apparel:  
which said unto them.

Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?  
In like manner as ye have seen him going up into heaven,  
so shall he come again.

God is gone up with a merry noise;  
and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

Christ to highest heaven ascending, led captivity captive.  
Sing ye to the Lord, who ascended to the heaven of heavens,  
to the sunrising.

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph,

See the King in royal state

Riding on the clouds his chariot

To his heavenly palace gate;

Hark! the choirs of angel voices

Joyful Alleluias sing,

And the portals high are lifted

To receive their heavenly King.

## **GREETING**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **and also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*All* **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## INTRODUCTION

*The President introduces the service saying*

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 offer him the praise and glory worthy of his name.

## THE ASCENSION READING

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (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; 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.'

*The reader says*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*All*        **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*President* Why stand looking up into heaven?  
This Jesus will come in the same way  
as you saw him go into heaven.

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.

*The choir sings*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

*Choir* Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only art most high, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE COLLECT

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

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 for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Sit*

THE SECOND READING: *Daniel 7.9-14*

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

*At the end*

*Reader* For the word of the Lord

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 93

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and make disciples of all the nations, says the Lord,  
And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia!**

### THE GOSPEL READING: *Luke 24. 44-53*

*At the beginning*

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

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*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*  
THE HOMILY

*The Revd Canon Dr Peter Doll*

*Stand*  
THE CREED

*All*        **We believe in one God,**  
              **the Father, the Almighty,**  
              **maker of heaven and earth,**  
              **of all that is,**  
              **seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**  
              **the only Son of God,**  
              **eternally begotten of the Father,**  
              **God from God, Light from Light,**  
              **true God from true God,**  
              **begotten, not made,**  
              **of one Being with the Father;**  
              **through him all things were made.**  
**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**  
**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**  
**and was made man.**  
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**  
**he suffered death and was buried.**  
**On the third day he rose again**  
**in accordance with the Scriptures;**  
**he ascended into heaven**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**  
**and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
              **the Lord, the giver of life,**  
              **who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**  
              **who with the Father and the Son**  
              **is worshipped and glorified,**  
              **who has spoken through the prophets.**  
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**  
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**  
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
**and the life of the world to come.**  
**Amen.**

*Kneel*

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Minister* Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The President concludes the intercession with a collect:*

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in 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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

### 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.'  
Alleluia!

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



*All*      **Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!**

**There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!  
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!  
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluia!  
Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!  
Far above yon azure height, Alleluia!  
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia!  
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluia!**

**There we shall with thee remain, Alleluia!  
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluia!  
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!  
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!**

## PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*President*    Eternal God,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ  
has promised to be with us until the end of time.  
Accept all we offer you this day,  
and renew in us his risen life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## 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 sing for ever to your praise:

*Choir* Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
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*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*All*

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life;  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, Benedict, Julian, Edith and 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!**

*Kneel*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*President* As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## 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.  
Live in us that we may live in you.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*President* I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia!  
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.  
*All* **Blessed are those who are called to the supper  
of the Lamb. Alleluia!**

*During the Distribution the choir sings Agnus Dei*

*Choir* 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.

*Kneel*

## 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.**

## SOLEMN BLESSING

*President* The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*President* God the Father,  
who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

*All* **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Imperial March by Edward Elgar*