ORDER OF WORSHIP

This simplified order of service uses historic and familiar parts of our worship. The service has been modified so it can also be used for home use in connection with online worship.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

HYMN — Alleluia! Sing to Jesus verse 1

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter,
his the throne; Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peace
ful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood: “Jesus
out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood.”
songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.
his hearts for get his promise: “I am with you ev er more”?

2 Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our
food, our stay; Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to you from day to day. In ter ces sor, Friend
of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea Where the
received him When the forty days were o’er, Shall our

3 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

verse
CONFESSION OF SINS

L:  Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

G:  Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
     For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
     For sins of habit and sins of choice,
     For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.

     Brief silence for personal confession of sins.

L:  Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

     I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

G:  Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L:  Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God’s right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

G:  Amen.
BIBLE LESSONS

Devotional introductions to the Bible lessons serve as the sermon on this Ascension Sunday

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

HYMN — Alleluia! Sing to Jesus verse 2

Ephesians 1:16-23

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.
APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERTORY
PRAYER

L: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father’s majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

G: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan and hell.

L: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God’s love for all the world.

G: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

L: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan’s every accusation. Ask for the Father’s rich blessings in our everyday lives.

G: Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.

L: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

G: You are our Lord, Master, and King.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

L: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

L: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.


LORD’S PRAYER

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
    and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.
BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
    The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
    The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

G: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN Go My Children, with My Blessing verse 1

1 Go, my children, with my blessing,
2 Go, my children, sins forgiven,
3 Go, my children, fed and nourished,
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you

Never alone. Waking, sleeping,
At peace and pure. Here you learned how
Closer to me; Grow in love and
And give you peace; I the Lord will

I am with you; You are my own.
much I love you, What I can cure.
love by serving, Joyful and free.
smile upon you And give you peace;

In my love’s baptismal river I have
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; Here you
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; Here his
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior,

made you mine forever. Go, my children,
touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children,
tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children;
Comforter, and Brother. Go, my children;

with my blessing—You are my own.
sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
I will keep you And give you peace.