

## Ascension Day Prayer

### Opening Sentences

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Ghost has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

**All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

*let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.*

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
*and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

For the Lord is a great God,  
*and a great King above all gods.*

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
*and the heights of the hills are his also.*

The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
*and his hands have molded the dry land.*

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
*and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
*Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

Alleluia. Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven.  
*Come let us adore him. Alleluia.*

### Psalm

Lord, Open our lips

*And our mouth shall proclaim your name.*

Psalm 110:1-5

*After the reading*

**All: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.***

## First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

*After the Reading **Thanks be to God***

## Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power  
*are yours by right, O Lord our God,*  
For you created everything that is,  
*and by your will they were created and have their being;*  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
*for with your blood you have redeemed for God,*  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
*a kingdom of priests to serve our God.*  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne,  
*and to Christ the Lamb,*  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,  
*for ever and for evermore.*

## Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

*After the Reading **Thanks be to God***

## The Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

*After the Reading **Praise to you, Lord Christ***

## Reflection

“Ascension” *by Malcolm Guite*

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven’s story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

## The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Suffrage A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
*And grant us your salvation.*

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
*Let your people sing with joy.*

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*For only in you can we live in safety.*

Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
*And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

Let your way be known upon earth;  
*Your saving health among all nations.*

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

## The Collect

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.

## The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Alleluia. Ephesians 3:20,21*