

The Ascension of the Lord C



Entrance Antiphon: **Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.**

On this day we celebrate the glorification of Jesus, our Brother, when the Father raised him up in glory. Jesus wants us to share in his glory. Let us reflect for a moment on the glory to which we are called.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Prince of Peace.

Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary.

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh.

Lord have mercy.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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.

Let us pray:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. "It is", he had said, "what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit". Now having met together, they asked him, "Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied: "It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth". As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said: "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46

**Response: God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

**God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.
**God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**
God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.
**God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:46-53

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high."

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and 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; on 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And with your spirit.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death,

ascended today to the highest heavens

as the Angels gazed in wonder.

Mediator between God and man,

judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended,

not to distance himself from our lowly state

but that we, his members,

might be confident of following where he,

our Head and Founder, has gone before.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,

every land, every people exults in your praise

and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,

sing together the unending hymn of your glory as they acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. 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.

The mystery of faith. **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,**

and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon : **Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.**

REFLECTION

Instruments of the Lord

'Go, preach the Gospel to all nations.' This was the farewell command of Christ. He has no body now on earth but ours. He has no hands but ours to raise up the fallen. No feet but ours to seek out the lost. No eyes but ours to see silent suffering tears. No ears but ours to listen to the lonely. No tongue but ours to speak comfort to the sad. No heart but ours to love the unloved. Lord, take pity on us, your timid, fearful disciples. Give us the courage to witness to you, and so the Gospel will be preached, and people will find their way into your kingdom.

Prayer after Communion:

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you:

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Mass is ended: Go in peace. Alleluia.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God Alleluia.

Dear God, I know you are here with me, but often I feel powerless and vulnerable. Renew in me a sense of purpose. Deepen my desire to follow you. Let me know that my witness is grounded and founded in your Spirit of wisdom and truth. And thank you for being my God and calling me to be your beloved one. Amen.