

Ascension

Holy Communion Service



St Paul's Church
Wimbledon Parkside

21 May 2020
Online service

Music *Auf, auf , mit hellem Schall (Up, up, with radiant sound) from the Ascension Cantata BWV 128 by J. S. Bach (1685-1750), arranged for piano.*

Welcome and Introduction

The Gathering

God has gone up with a shout.

All **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

We meet in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Hymn: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

The Greeting

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

All **and also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.**

Invitation to Confession

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins
and bring you to everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord

All **Amen.**

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 acknowledging his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

Ascension Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1.1-11

At the end the reader may say:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia**

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.**

The Collect

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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

Reading of the Epistle: Ephesians 1.15-end

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *He became like a man (words: Philippians 2:5-11, music by Kevin Jones)*

Gospel Reading: Luke 24.44-end

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age
(cf Matt 28.19,20)

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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 the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

All **Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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.
(John 14.27,28)

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **And also with you.**

Let us share with one another a sign of God's peace.

Preparation of the Table

Music *Sein allmacht zu ergründen (Who can fathom his omnipotence)* from Bach's *Ascension Cantata*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The president takes the bread and wine and may say:

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 forever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:
Christ has risen:
Christ will come again.**

**Accept through him, our great High Priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours forever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **As we look for the coming of the kingdom, 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

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

We were buried in your tomb.

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

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Agnus Dei

All **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.**

Giving of Communion

The president gives the invitation to communion

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.**

Act of Spiritual Reception

The priest receives on our behalf and we acknowledge and celebrate our unity in spiritual communion.

***Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me
and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your
presence. As the hem of your garment, touched in faith,
healed the woman in the gospel, so may I be healed.***

***Although I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can, through
this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart; grant this
for Christ's sake. Amen.***

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

*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.

Thanksgiving prayer

**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**

The Dismissal

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12, 13a, 14):

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.

Responsory

As we wait in silence,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for our empowering,

All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

The Blessing

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**

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Amen**

Music: *Alsdann so wirst du mich (You place me at your right hand)* from Bach's Ascension Cantata