

## Ascension Day Service, Widford Parish, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

**God has gone up with a shout,  
The Lord with a sound of a trumpet. (Psalm 47.5)**

Welcome, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace  
From God our Father  
And the Lord Jesus Christ  
Be with you  
**And also with you.**



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 hear the story of his parting.

**The Ascension Reading** – A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1. 4-11

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Hymn:**

**Crown him with many crowns,**  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky  
can fully bare that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

4. Crown him the Lord of peace,  
Whose power a sceptre sways,  
From pole to pole that wars may cease,  
And all be prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end,  
And round His pierced feet,  
Fair flowers of paradise extend,  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

5. Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

CCLI license for Live stream and copyright, Worship and Rejoice, 2003

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***

**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.**

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.

**Silence is kept**

### **The Collect**

Risen Christ,  
You have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
Help us to seek and serve you,  
That we may join you at the Father's side,  
Where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
Now and for ever,  
Amen.



**Bible Reading:** Ephesians 1: 15 - end  
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon - Andy**

#### **Canticle**

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,  
And share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds,  
Lord God the Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways,  
O ruler of the nations.

Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations shall come and worship in your presence:  
For your just dealings have been revealed.

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
Be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
For ever and ever. Amen**

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,  
And share in the feast of your kingdom.**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,  
Seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,  
We pray for the church, for our Bishops John and Peter, that they will lead us into  
the future with love and compassion,  
Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,  
We pray for our brothers and sisters in distress or sorrow,  
We pray for any who are sick or suffering with the virus, and for those who have  
seen loved ones dying,  
Lord hear us,  
**Lord graciously hear us.**

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always,  
To the end of the age,  
Hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work,  
Be with us as we find new ways of working and staying safe.  
Be with anyone who is feeling stressed or pressured at this time.  
Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Merciful Father  
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever, Amen**

**Reading: 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'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.

***Silence is kept.***

## **Responsory**

As we wait in silence,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,

**Make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

## ***Silence is kept.***

May the Spirit,

Who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,

Bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## ***Hymn:***

Majesty, worship his majesty,

Unto Jesus, be glory honour and praise,

Majesty, kingdom authority,

Flows from his throne, unto his own,

His anthem raise,

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus

Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King

Majesty, Worship his majesty

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

CCLI license for Live stream and copyright, Worship and Rejoice, 2003

## **The Dismissal**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

