

Morning and Evening Prayer for Ascension Day

PREPARATION

At Morning Prayer –

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your throne has been established from of old;
you are from everlasting. Alleluia.

At Evening Prayer

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your throne has been established from of old;
you are from everlasting. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the darkness of death you have raised your Christ
to the right hand of your majesty on high.
The pioneer of our faith, his passion accomplished,
has opened for us the way to heaven
and sends on us the promised Spirit.
May we be ready to follow the Way
and so be brought to the glory of his presence
where songs of triumph for ever sound:
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

At Morning Prayer -

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray
with one heart and mind. *Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your
presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

At Evening Prayer -

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Psalms 110, 150 *ending with,*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

First reading *Morning Acts 1:1-11,*
Evening 2 Kings 2:1-15

Canticle: A Song of Christ's Appearing

**Christ was believed in throughout the world
and taken up in glory. Alleluia!**

- 1 Christ Jesus was revealed in the flesh
and vindicated in the spirit.
- 2 He was seen by angels
and proclaimed among the nations.
- 3 Believed in throughout the world,
he was taken up in glory.
- 4 This will be made manifest at the proper time
by the blessed and only Sovereign,
- 5 Who alone has immortality,
and dwells in unapproachable light.

**To the King of kings and Lord of lords
be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.**

1 Timothy 3.16; 6.15,16

**Christ was believed in throughout the world
and taken up in glory. Alleluia!**

Second reading *Morning: Luke 24:44-end.*

Evening: Revelation 5

A responsory

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.

God has gone up with a merry noise;
sing to the Lord and bless his name.

The Lord with the sound of the trumpet:
tell out his salvation from day to day.

He has led captivity captive, and given gifts to his people.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.

from Psalms 47 and 68

At morning prayer -

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

I am ascending to my Father and to your Father;
to my God and your God. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

**I am ascending to my Father and to your Father;
to my God and your God. Alleluia.**

At evening prayer – The Magnificat

**I have made your name known to those you have
given me; and now I pray for them, for I am coming
to you. Alleluia.**

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit
rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on
his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the
Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever. *Luke 1.46-55*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.
I have made your name known to those you have given me;
and now I pray for them, for I am coming to you. Alleluia.**

PRAYERS

The Collect of the day is said

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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE CONCLUSION

Hymn

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
he hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

Lo! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia!
though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls us all his own. Alleluia!

See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

Still for us he intercedes, Alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, Alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, Alleluia!
he the first fruits of our race. Alleluia!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!
far above the starry height, Alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley

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May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.