



The **Scottish Episcopal Church**

Growing in faith and holiness

United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway

To help you join in the online service for  
Ascension Day during the coronavirus pandemic



# Ascension Day 2020

## Easter Season



The Eucharist for Ascension Day  
Thursday 21 May 2020

Scottish Episcopal Church

# Introduction to the Season

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Triumphant in his glory now,  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall.

(Fulbert of Chartres)

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period' (laetissimum spatium).

It is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the Easter Anthems, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension.

He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

Father Black explains Ascension Day in Lego *from*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnRJa4cZQIE>

# Ascension Day Eucharist

Music before the service from St Johns College Chapel in Cambridge 'The Lord ascendeth up on high' with music by Michael Praetorius. from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sltRTnlfTfc>

**Opening Hymn:** Hail thee festival day from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxlcus4IoM0>

## The Gathering

God has gone up with a shout,  
**All the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

*Psalm 47.5*

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

## Introduction

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

*Acts 1.4-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While staying with the disciples, the risen Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

*At the end the reader says*

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** - *Christ Light of the Nations setting normally used at St Margaret's*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God,**

**your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord.**

**Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit**

**and in the bond of peace,**

**and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



## Second Reading *Ephesians 1:15-23*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

For the word of the Lord **THANKS BE TO GOD**

**PSALM 47** the setting of Karl Kohlhasse from

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9lluagfp9c>

**Response: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.**

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great king over all the earth. **R**
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. **R**
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises. **R**
- 7 For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne. **R**
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is highly exalted. **R**

## **GOSPEL Luke 24.44-end**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Jesus said to the disciples,

‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

46 and he said to them,

‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;

53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.**

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**SERMON** *by Rev'd Andrea Maffie*

*from the Canterbury Province of the Anglican Communion*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one substance with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **INTERCESSIONS**

*We use the vesicle & response*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end of the intercessions we say:*

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

## **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*

We meet in Christ's name  
**let us share his peace.**

Alleluia alleluia! The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you Alleluia Alleluia!**

**Offertory hymn** Hail the day that sees him rise  
from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xCutcf1M7Y>

## **OFFERING**

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
the power, the glory,  
the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth  
is yours. All things come from you,  
and of your own we give you.**



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.

Born of a woman,  
he came to the rescue of our human race.

Dying for us,  
he trampled death and conquered sin.

By the glory of his resurrection  
he opened the way to life eternal  
and by his ascension,  
gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be.

Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy  
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

***we sing* Holy, Holy, Holy .....**  
*sung using Christ Light of the Nations setting*

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all,  
for by the Cross eternal life is ours  
and death is swallowed up in victory.

In the first light of Easter  
glory broke from the tomb  
and changed the women's sorrow into joy.

From the Garden the mystery dawned  
that he whom they had loved and lost  
is with us now  
in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread,  
speaking peace to the fearful disciples,  
welcoming weary fishermen on the shore,  
he renewed the promise of his presence  
and of new birth in the Spirit  
who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.  
Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
recalling the night of Israel's release,  
the night in which slaves walked free,  
at supper with his disciples  
he took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread,  
and gave it to them, saying:

*"Take, eat.*

*This is my Body: it is broken for you."*

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,  
and gave it to them saying:

*"Drink this, all of you.*

*This is my Blood of the new covenant;*

*it is poured out for you, and for all,*

*that sins may be forgiven.*

*Do this in remembrance of me."*

**We now obey your Son's command.  
We recall his blessed passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.  
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts  
and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,  
and send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon this bread and this wine,  
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,  
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,  
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love  
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into  
the fellowship of Christ's Body  
to live and work to your praise and glory;  
may we grow together in unity and love  
until at last, in your new creation,  
we enter into our heritage  
in the company of the Virgin Mary,  
the apostles and prophets,  
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be to you,  
Lord of all ages,  
world without end.  
**Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour has taught *or*  
us, 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.  
Do not bring us  
to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the  
power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has  
commanded and taught us,  
we are bold to say:

**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.**

## COMMUNION SONG

**Lamb of God** *sung using Christ Light of the Nations*

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## Our Spiritual Communion prayer

*We make our Spiritual Communion as we pray privately*

God of unending love,  
you are present to us in Word and Sacrament.  
With all around the world who gather to worship,  
I offer you my praise and thanksgiving;  
and though I cannot eat the bread of God,  
or drink the royal wine of heaven,  
I pray that I may know the fountain of your love drench my heart  
and your Incarnate presence encompass me behind and before,  
that through the power of your Spirit,  
I may rejoice in the sure and certain hope  
that I abide in your wondrous love now and for all eternity,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen..

*followed by Ascension Day 2020*

*from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7Wgir0mE0>*

## THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.  
**And his mercy endures for ever.**

## **Post Communion Prayer of the day**

**Eternal Giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom.  
Confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **BLESSING**

Christ our king make you  
faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
+ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



## **Closing hymn: Christ triumphant from**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0r3EogSdfPU>

## **DISMISSAL**

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

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

**Closing music** "lovely piece of music" by played by Lyndon Ford in  
Fareham Hampshire in his back bedroom on his .....

and the Philippe Jaroussky: **Regina coeli laetare** (G. A. Rigatti) from

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57YOdXIY3sU>

**Thank you** to everyone who helped to make this Service video for this Ascension Day 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown  
All contributions were sent in by telephone, email or file transfer – no social contacts were made to create this act of worship.

Thanks to YouTube advertising - all music artists whose work was used will receive royalties through the YouTube system for their contribution to this service. YouTube checks the copyright status of all content. We are very grateful to the creativity of others around the world who have uploaded music and songs which have helped us raise our souls in praise and prayer today – thank you!



## **Happy Ascension Day 2020**

Stay home - Celebrate on the phone & online - Keep safe  
from the Joint Charges of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew

**[www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk](http://www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk)**

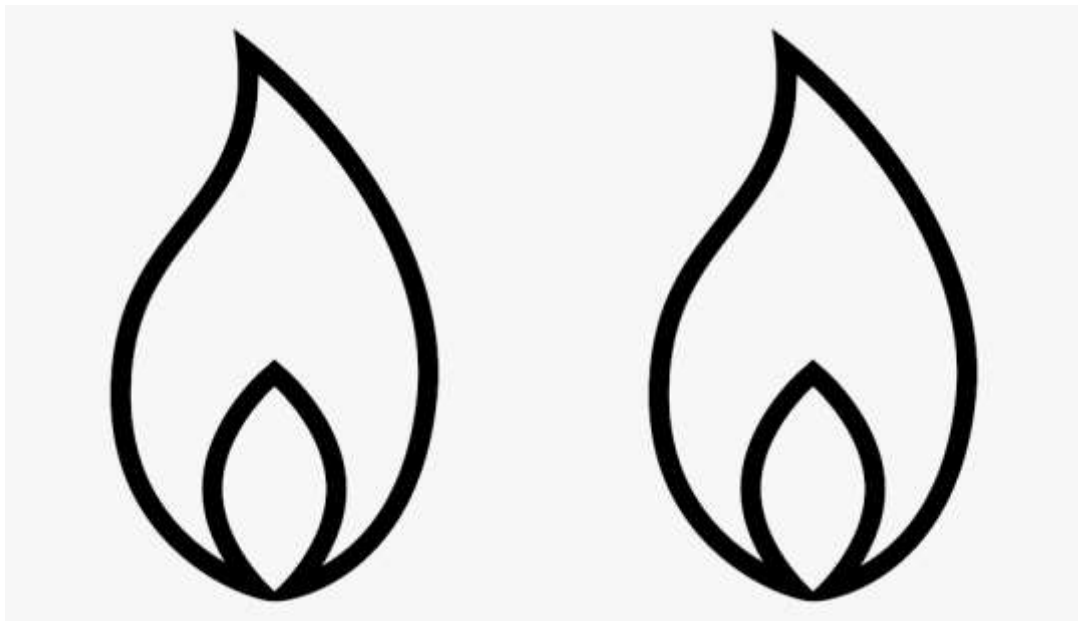
Copyright CCLI Licenses 572044/19578/572051/1010014/110143

# See you on Sunday from 945am

for the Service for **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

then on **Sunday 31 May to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost**

Please send in flames to help decorate our 'chapel' as we record the service during the week before Pentecost.



You are invited to come to the services and discover something of God afresh in life as we join together in worship, prayer and praise.

We are churches for the diversity of all people in Scotland  
– you are welcome in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

**Rector** – Rev'd Reuben Preston ObIOSB, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD UK

