

St. Luke's Table

ASCENSION of the LORD

Go and make disciples
of all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always,
to the close of the age.

Matthew 28.19, 20



The Ascension, JESUS MAFA

Good Morning and Welcome!

Our service is the Prayers at Mid-Day, taken from the Book of Alternative Services.

Scripture has been copied from www.biblegateway.com, (NRSV)

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The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn



O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Merciful God,
grant to us, your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 19 1–6, *(alternating verses)*

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts its knowledge to another.

**Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

Psalm Prayer

**O God, the source of all life,
you have filled the earth with beauty.
Open our eyes to see your gracious hand
in all your works, that rejoicing in your whole creation
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him
through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The 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 his 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.

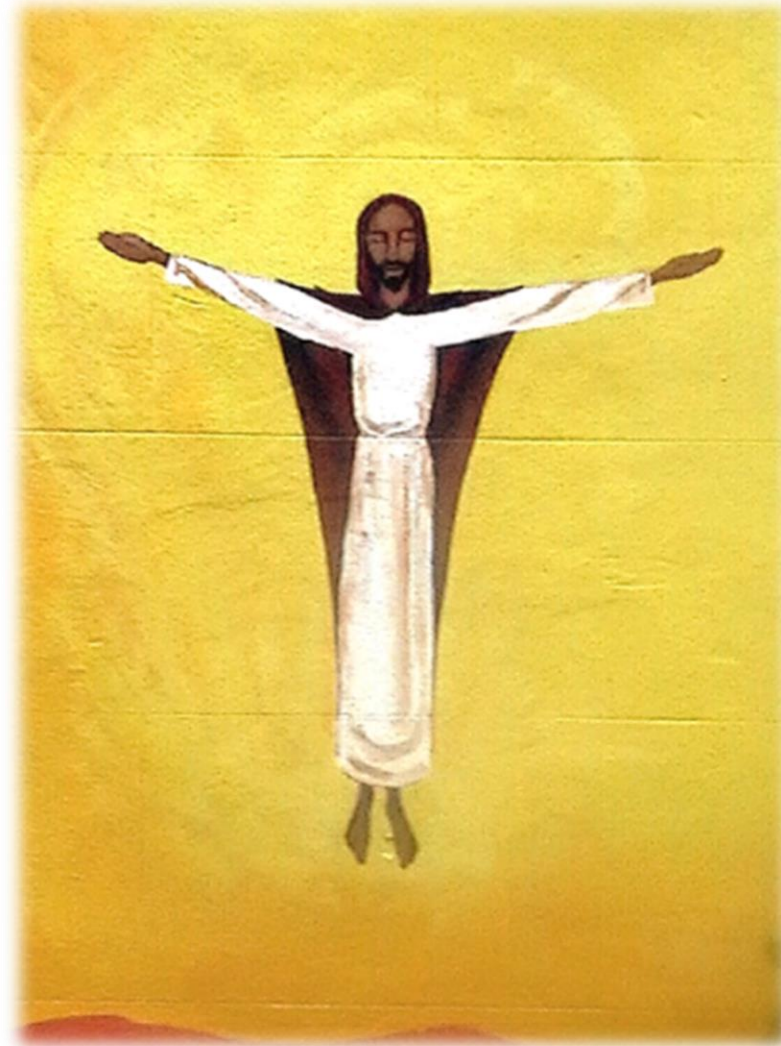
The fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.
If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk
By the Spirit.
(Galatians 5.22, 23a, 25)



Fruits of the Spirit, Record number: [55637]

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading
Acts 1: 1-11



Ascension, Building Mural
Bristol, England

Acts 1:1-11; The Promise of the Holy Spirit

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While staying with them, he 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

2 Corinthians 5.17–18

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work.

It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.



Reconciliation, Roe, Dianne

Psalm 47, (alternating verses)

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared;
he is the great king over all the earth.**

He subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet.

**He chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations;
God sits upon his holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,
and he is highly exalted.**

**Blessed are you, God of all the earth;
you have called us out of every people
and nation to be a royal priesthood
and citizens of your holy city.**

**May our words of praise
call the world to turn to
the joy of fellowship with you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Malachi 1.11:

From the rising of the sun
to its setting my name
shall be great among the nations,
and in every place
incense shall be offered
to my name, and a pure offering;
for my name shall be great
among the nations,
says the Lord of hosts.



Cross and Rising Sun, Record number: [57417]

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1: 15-23



Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God -- Sister Maurice Schnell, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Idaho

Ephesians 1: 15-23; Paul's Prayer

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn



The Good News

The Gospel of Christ
according to
Luke 24: 44-53



Ascension, Church of St Elthedreda London, England

Luke 24: 44-53

Then he said to them, “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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things. 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.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reflection



Jubilee Monument -- Ouidah, Benin

Affirmation of Faith

**Here O Israel
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

Prayers
of the People



Ascension -- Joanna Vaughn, Cape Cod Bay

Prayer for Jerusalem Sunday

(written by the
Most Reverend Fred Hiltz,
reprinted from the
Anglican Church
of Canada website)



O God, We give thanks that your dear Son has gathered us in the embrace of his redeeming love and sent us to make that love known to the ends of the earth.

We pray your continued blessings on the steadfast witness of the Church in Jerusalem and throughout the Middle East.

Give your deep joy to those who welcome the pilgrims seeking to know this land and its many peoples.

Grace those who proclaim the Gospel.

Guide all who teach a new generation of young people.

Draw near to those who are sick and bless those who tend them.

Sustain the hope in all who long and labour for a just and lasting peace in the land of The Holy One.

And may the companions of Jerusalem be many and faithful.

We pray in the name of our merciful Saviour, Friend, and Brother, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory Hymn



Prayer over the Gifts:

**Eternal God,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
has promised to be with us until the end of time.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and renew us in his transfigured life;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Collect for Mid-Day

**Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit
into our hearts to comfort us in all our afflictions,
to defend us from all error,
and to lead us into all truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom,
and teach us to pray,

**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 Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.
Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God,
Alleluia.**



Ascension -- Keur Moussa Abbey, Keur Moussa, Senegal

Closing Hymn



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