



THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always to the end of the age. *Matthew 28:19,20.*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence is kept.

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; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. 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.

Merciful Lord, grant to 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. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

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

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 shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered; ♦

let those that hate him flee before him.

As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away; ♦

as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; ♦

let them make merry with gladness.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides on the clouds. ♦

The Lord is his name; rejoice before him.

Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, ♦

God in his holy habitation!

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, ♦

but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert.

O God, when you went forth before your people, ♦

when you marched through the wilderness,

The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain, at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai, ♦

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

You sent down a gracious rain, O God; ♦

you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.

Your people came to dwell there; ♦

in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; ♦

make music in praise of the Lord;

He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens ♦

and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel, ♦

whose power is above the clouds.

How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary, ♦

the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to his people! Blessed be God.

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: Acts 1:6-14

When the disciples had come together, they asked Jesus, '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.'

Then they 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, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting

themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

CANTICLE: The Easter Anthems (*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*)

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:

therefore let us celebrate the feast,

Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ, once raised from the dead dies no more;

death has no more dominion over him.

In dying, he died to sin once for all;

in living, he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin;

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

the firstfruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death,

by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die,

even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

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.

SECOND READING: John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

REFLECTION by Canon Mark Niblock

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God the King of Glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Let us pray for God to fill us with his Spirit:

Generous God, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to reveal the love of Jesus in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, given us by the risen Lord. We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan, and upon the disciples in the upper room: in your mercy fill us with your Spirit and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever.

Let us hold in silence those who have asked our prayers and those in particular need of the strength of God's Holy Spirit today.

PAUSE

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

A PRAYER FOR CARE WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all doctors, nurses, anaesthetists and hospital personnel who are called to care for the sick, those suffering from the Coronavirus and all in special medical need today. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and who care for those in need within the community. Protect all who work in essential shops, businesses and supply companies. Help each to remember that they are fellow-workers with you. Give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those whom they serve, and to their loved ones. Guard them in their work from themselves contracting the virus, and watch over their families in their anxiety for them. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen. (Cont.....)**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Christ our exalted King
pour upon you his abundant gifts,
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 with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions
as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to
services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or
our Facebook Page "Belfast Cathedral" for up to date news and online prayer resources.

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HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH 285:

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above:
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.

To them the Cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given:
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.

The Cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Words: Thomas Kelly (1769-1854) based on Revelation 17:14; 19:12, 16
Tune: ST MAGNUS Melody (and most of bass) probably by Jeremiah Clarke (c.1673-1707)

ICH 250:

All hail the power of Jesu's name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
extol him in whose path ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng,
we at his feet may fall;
we'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

Words: Edward Perronet (1726-92) and John Rippon (1751-1836) based on Revelation 4:9-11
Tune: MILES LANE William Shrubsole (1760-1806)