

Service Sheet for Live Stream Service with Spiritual Communion

Ascension Day – 21st May

Daniel 7: 9-14; Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53



PREPARING THE SPACE...

Please feel free to message and commune during the service as you are so inspired to do. There will be people you recognise who are gathered with you and feel free to say hello to them and to say hello to those whom you don't yet know ☺ Let's give thanks that we are part of this St Beale's community of communities.

Perhaps you might like to light a candle, still yourself as you listen to the music, and allow yourself to take time out and rest in the peace of the time to come as we gather together to worship, reflect and pray....

Music:

Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia! Glorious to his native skies; alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals giv'n, alleluia!
Enters now the highest heav'n! Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits; alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Christ hast vanquished death and sin; alleluia!
Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

There we shall with thee remain, alleluia!
Partners of thine endless reign; alleluia!
There thy face unclouded see, alleluia!
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee. Alleluia!

Welcome to our live-stream Service for Ascension Day

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, 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.

Tonight, 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, we hear again the story of his parting.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Peace to our homes and all who live in them, and peace to all our communities.

WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER

God has gone up with a shout!

All: The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Psalm 47.5

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.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Lord have mercy – (response) Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy – (response) Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy – (response) Lord have mercy

We receive the blessings of the loving forgiveness of God....

THE GLORIA

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.

COLLECT (the gathering prayer of the church)

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

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD (listening to God's Word)

READING - Acts 1:1-11

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 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.'

This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN – led by Jonathan and Naomi

Christ triumphant ever-reigning, Saviour, Master, King,
Lord of heaven our lives sustaining, hear us as we sing:

Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name.

Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing by your humble birth:

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated, victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated, sinners justified:

Priestly King, enthroned for ever high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never stifle hymns of love:

So, our hearts and voices raising through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing, this shall be our song:

GOSPEL - Luke 24.44–53

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.' 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Affirming our Faith

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in Heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYERS

Lord, hear us. All: Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end of our prayers we say:

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

THE 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*
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All: and also with you.

Let us offer one another a verbal sign of peace.

HYMN – led by Jonathan and Naomi

All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord. Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord? Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne I gladly bow my knee and worship Him alone.

I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord. Who once was slain to reconcile man to God. Forever You will be the Lamb upon the throne, I gladly bow my knee and worship You alone.

Repeat verse 1 Tricia Richards © 1987 Thankyou Music

The Preparation of the table

The table is prepared.....

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise. *All: Blessed be God for ever.*

THE EUCHARIST PRAYER

The Lord be with you
All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts
All: We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All: It is right to give 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:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All 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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in this bread of life.

You are invited to hold out your hands and open your heart to receive our Lord Jesus Christ spiritually, feeding on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

We say together:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally,
we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts.
O most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen

Prayer after Communion:

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES

HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

THE BLESSING & SENDING

Alleluia. Christ is risen! *All:* He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. Amen.

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Music: My Peace I give you..... Taize (*with permission*)

Hail the day that sees him rise recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together. Some material included in this service is copyright: Reproduced with permission. Common Worship 2000 & Times & Seasons 2006 © The Archbishops' Council