



A SERVICE
FOR
ASCENSION DAY

Introit

Ascendit Deus in jubilatione,
et Dominus in voce tubae. Alleluia.
Dominus in caelo paravit sedem suam. Alleluia.

*God is gone up with a merry noise,
and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Alleluia.
The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven. Alleluia.*

Words Psalms 47.5 and 103.19 • Music Peter Philips (c. 1560–1628)

Welcome and Introduction

God has gone up with a shout: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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, so we hear again the story of his parting:

Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While staying with the disciples, 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.’

Acts 1.4–11

Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

Psalm 47

- O clap your hands together, all ye people : O Sing unto God with the voice of melody.
- 2 For the Lord is high, and to be feared : he is the great King upon all the earth.
- 3 He shall subdue the people under us : and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He shall choose out an heritage for us : even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.
- 5 God is gone up with a merry noise : and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
- 6 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God : O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth : sing ye praises with understanding.
- 8 God reigneth over the heathen : God sitteth upon his holy seat.
- 9 The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham : for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be : world without end.
Amen.

A Short Address

Canon Maggie McLean

Prayer

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Music Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

Blessing

The Dean