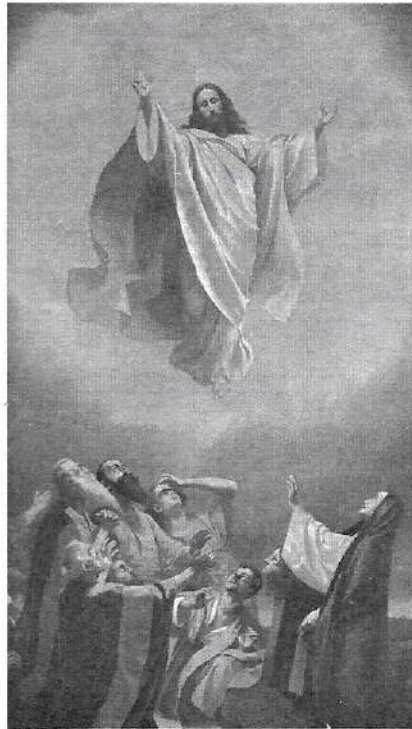


Christ in Glory



Thursday 13th May

7:30pm

St Luke's Church

West Sevenoaks Team Service for Ascension Day

Processional Music and entry of Ministers

Welcome

Scripture sentences:

'We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God.'
(Hebrews 4:14)

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be my witnesses in all the world." (Acts 1:8)

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus shall reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the sons of want are blest.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like incense shall arise
with every morning sacrifice.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

Gathering, leading into the Confession

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you:
and also with you.

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

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.

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, reigning now in heaven, you gave your life for us on the cross: **yet we have not loved you with all our hearts.**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, you were raised from death victorious over sin: **yet we have not lived in the light of eternal life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, you returned to the Father in glory: **yet we have not owned you as our King.**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, we have looked to our own strength: **instead of trusting you wholeheartedly.**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, we have looked to this passing world for pleasure and meaning: **instead of living for you in eternity.**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, you ascended into heaven, where you reign for ever with the Father. We are sorry we have not always acknowledged you as our King. In your mercy: **forgive us and help us; make us joyful in worship and obedient in service, to the praise and glory of your name. Amen.**

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 his 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 for Ascension Day

Let us pray: **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.**

New Testament 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 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."

(At the end) This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: The head that once was crowned with thorns

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.

Gospel acclamations

We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God: **you are worthy, O Lord, our God, to receive glory, honour and praise.**

God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms: **you are worthy, O Lord, our God, to receive glory, honour and praise.**

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above all other names – that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow: **you are worthy, O Lord, our God, to receive glory, honour and praise.**

Gospel reading

(When announced) **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

Luke 24: 44 - end

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.

(At the end) This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Credal statement

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself, and was obedient to death – even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Sermon

Rev Andy Finn

Prayers: led by Rev Anne Bourne

(To) Lord, come to bless us: **and fill us with your Spirit.**

The Peace

Jesus said to his disciples: "Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Trust in God always: trust also in me".

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

Hymn: Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
through the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal;
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

Preparation for Communion

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life: **blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation: **blessed be God for ever.**

The Communion Prayer

The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us**

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

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

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession. **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

And now we give you thanks because he humbled himself to die on a cross; but you raised him high and gave him the name above all other names, Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we raise our voices, with all who have served you in every age, to proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying: **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. **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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. **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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: **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. **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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: **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour taught 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Lord, we died with you on the cross: **now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb: **now we share in your resurrection.**

Live in us: **that we may live in you.**

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

Invitation to Communion:

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*(Please note: The Church of England has given permission for communion in both forms (bread and wine) to be offered, by means of an intinctured wafer. If people would prefer just to receive the bread as normal then when you come out at communion bring **with** you your service order. If you would like the bread to be by intinction (dipping it slightly into the wine from a Chalice before giving it to you) then come **without** your service sheet.)*

After Communion

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord. Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

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

Hymn: Immortal, invisible

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

Blessing and dismissal

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 as our great high priest has 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you, now and always. **Amen**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

