

**Thursday 21 May 2020**

*Liturgical Colour: White.*

**ASCENSION THURSDAY**

*These readings are for the day of the feast itself:*

**The Introductory Rites**

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Acts 1: 11**

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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

*The people reply:*

**Amen.**

**Greeting**

The Lord be with you.

*The people reply:*

**And with your spirit.**

**Penitential Act**

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*All recite together the formula of general confession:*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,**

**and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

*Either:*

*V.* Lord, have mercy.

***R.* Lord, have mercy.**

*V.* Christ, have mercy.

***R.* Christ, have mercy.**

*V.* Lord, have mercy.

***R.* Lord, have mercy.**

*Or:*

*V.* Kyrie, eléison.

***R.* Kyrie, eléison.**

*V.* Christe, eléison.

***R.* Christe, eléison.**

*V.* Kyrie, eléison.

***R.* Kyrie, eléison.**

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### The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
    have mercy on us.**

**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.**

Let us pray.

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son  
is our exaltation,  
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **First reading**

**Acts 1:1-11**

#### **Jesus was lifted up while they looked on**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9**

*God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth.

*God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

God is king of all the earth,  
sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

*God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

## **Second reading**

**Ephesians 1:17-23**

### **God made him sit at his right hand in heaven**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt28:19,20**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go, make disciples of all the nations.  
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Alleluia!

*The Deacon, or the Priest, says:*

The Lord be with you.

*The people reply:*

**And with your spirit.**

*The Deacon, or the Priest:*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

**Go and make disciples of all nations**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Homily**

**The Creed**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers)**

*The Priest concludes the Prayer of the Faithful with a collect.*

### **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

#### **The Offertory**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

*If the Priest says the prayers aloud the assembly's acclamation is:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

*If the Priest says the prayers aloud the assembly's acclamation is:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

*The people reply:*

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,  
to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son:  
grant, we pray,  
that through this most holy exchange  
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

*The Priest continues with the Preface.*

**Preface**

### **The mystery of the Ascension**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory,  
conqueror of sin and death,  
ascended (today) to the highest heavens,  
as the Angels gazed in wonder.

Mediator between God and man,  
judge of the world and Lord of hosts,  
he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state  
but that we, his members, might be confident of following

where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,  
every land, every people exults in your praise  
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,  
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,  
as they acclaim:

*The Priest concludes the Preface with the people singing or saying aloud:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
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.**

*Eucharistic Prayer I: "The Roman Canon"*

*The Priest alone recites:*

To you, therefore, most merciful Father,  
we make humble prayer and petition  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:  
that you accept

and bless ✠ these gifts, these offerings,  
these holy and unblemished sacrifices,  
which we offer you firstly  
for your holy catholic Church.

Be pleased to grant her peace,  
to guard, unite and govern her  
throughout the whole world,  
together with your servant **N.** our Pope  
and **N.** our Bishop,  
and all those who, holding to the truth,  
hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants (**N.** and **N.**)  
and all gathered here,  
whose faith and devotion are known to you.  
For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
or they offer it for themselves  
and all who are dear to them:  
for the redemption of their souls,  
in hope of health and well-being,  
and paying their homage to you,  
the eternal God, living and true.

Celebrating the most sacred day  
on which your Only Begotten Son, our Lord,  
placed at the right hand of your glory  
our weak human nature,  
which he had united to himself,  
and in communion with those whose memory we venerate,  
especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary,  
Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ,  
and blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
your blessed Apostles and Martyrs,  
Peter and Paul, Andrew,  
(James, John,  
Thomas, James, Philip,  
Bartholomew, Matthew,  
Simon and Jude;  
Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus,  
Cornelius, Cyprian,  
Lawrence, Chrysogonus,  
John and Paul,  
Cosmas and Damian)  
and all your Saints;  
we ask that through their merits and prayers,  
in all things we may be defended  
by your protecting help.  
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Therefore, Lord, we pray:  
graciously accept this oblation of our service,  
that of your whole family;  
order our days in your peace,  
and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation  
and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.  
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Be pleased, O God, we pray,  
to bless, acknowledge,  
and approve this offering in every respect;  
make it spiritual and acceptable,  
so that it may become for us  
the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer,  
he took bread in his holy and venerable hands,  
and with eyes raised to heaven  
to you, O God, his almighty Father,  
giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread

and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took this precious chalice  
in his holy and venerable hands,  
and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

*After the words of Consecration the priest says:*

The mystery of faith.

*The people continue, acclaiming:*

*Either:*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

*Or:*

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

*Or:*

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

Therefore, O Lord,  
as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion,  
the Resurrection from the dead,  
and the glorious Ascension into heaven  
of Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
we, your servants and your holy people,  
offer to your glorious majesty  
from the gifts that you have given us,  
this pure victim,  
this holy victim,

this spotless victim,  
the holy Bread of eternal life  
and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings  
with a serene and kindly countenance,  
and to accept them,  
as once you were pleased to accept  
the gifts of your servant Abel the just,  
the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith,  
and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek,  
a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.  
In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God:  
command that these gifts be borne  
by the hands of your holy Angel  
to your altar on high  
in the sight of your divine majesty,  
so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar  
receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son,  
may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.  
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

*Commemoration of the Dead*

Remember also, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**,  
who have gone before us with the sign of faith  
and rest in the sleep of peace.  
Grant them, O Lord, we pray,  
and all who sleep in Christ,  
a place of refreshment, light and peace.  
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners,  
hope in your abundant mercies,  
graciously grant some share  
and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs:  
with John the Baptist, Stephen,  
Matthias, Barnabas,  
(Ignatius, Alexander,  
Marcellinus, Peter,  
Felicity, Perpetua,  
Agatha, Lucy,  
Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia)  
and all your Saints;  
admit us, we beseech you,  
into their company,  
not weighing our merits,  
but granting us your pardon,  
through Christ our Lord.

Through whom  
you continue to make all these good things, O Lord;  
you sanctify them, fill them with life,  
bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Communion Rite**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.:**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*During the breaking of the host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

*After his private prayers of preparation the Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice says aloud:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

**Mt 28: 20**

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

The Body of Christ.

*The communicant replies:*

**Amen.**

*After the distribution of Communion, if appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,

grant, we pray,  
that Christian hope may draw us onward  
to where our nature is united with you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Concluding Rites**

#### **Blessing**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

*Then the Deacon, or the Priest himself, says:*

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**