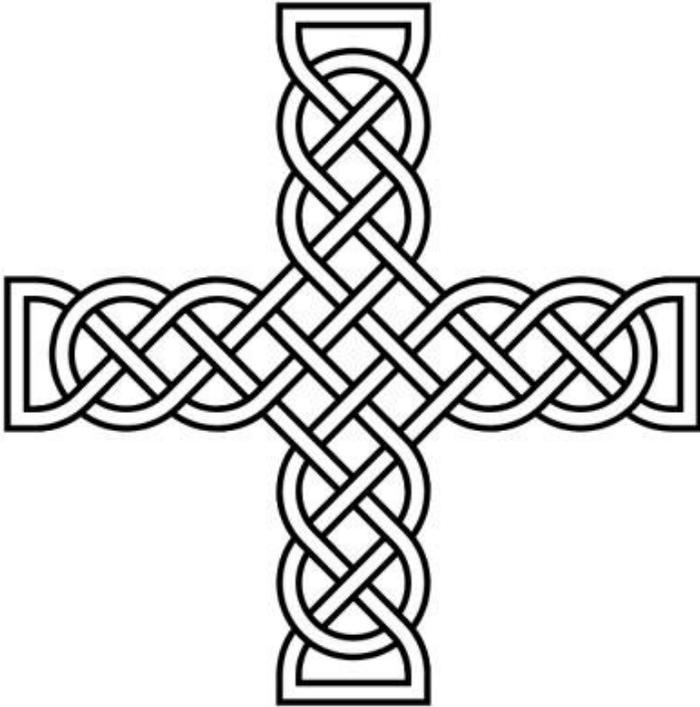


**ALL SAINTS  
WEST DULWICH**

**The Order for the Celebration of  
THE EUCHARIST**



**ASCENSIONTIDE**

# **STRUCTURE**

The people and the priest

- greet each other in the Lord's name
- recall the Ascension of Christ
- keep silence and pray a Collect
- proclaim and respond to the word of God
- pray for the Church and the world
- exchange the Peace
- prepare the altar
- pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- break the bread
- receive Holy Communion
- depart with God's blessing

## **Prayer of Preparation before the Eucharist**

The pioneer of our faith, his passion accomplished,  
has opened for us the way to heaven  
and sends on us the promised Spirit.

May we be ready to follow the Way  
and so be brought to the glory of his presence  
where songs of triumph for ever sound:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*A minister may call the people to worship with an appropriate sentence of scripture, and a time of prayer and silence  
The prayer from page 2 may be used*

*Please stand*

*A processional hymn may be sung*

God has gone up with a shout,  
**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.**

## The Greeting

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

## Introduction

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, let us hear the story of his parting.

## The Ascension Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While staying with them, 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. Alleluia.**

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God,  
let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

## Gloria in Excelsis

**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.**

### **The Collect**

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

#### *Ascension Day*

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.**

#### *Sunday after Ascension Day*

O God the King of Glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Please sit*

### **Reading**

*At the end of the lesson the reader says*

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

*A gradual hymn may be sung*

## **The Holy Gospel**

Alleluia...

**Alleluia...**

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*cf Matthew 28.19,20*

**Alleluia...**

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit*

## **Homily**

*After a period of silent reflection, please stand*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**

*Please kneel or sit*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,  
seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,  
living for ever to intercede for us,  
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,  
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,  
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,  
drawing humanity into the life of God,  
pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow ...

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,  
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,  
surround with your saints and angels  
those who have died trusting your promises ...

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,  
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,  
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **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  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*An offertory hymn may be sung*

## **Preparation of the Altar Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*Either or both these prayers may be said*

Blessèd be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

Pray my brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

**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.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**For he is our great High Priest  
who has entered once for all  
into the heavenly sanctuary,  
evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.**

He is the one who has gone before us,  
who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room  
while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing  
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
the Mother of God, and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please kneel or sit*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

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.

## **Agnus Dei**

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

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

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

## Giving of Communion

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.  
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**Blessèd are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.**

*An anthem and a communion hymn may be sung*

*Baptised and communicant members of other Christian churches  
are welcome to receive Holy Communion;  
and all are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

*Ascension Day*

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.**

*Sunday after Ascension Day*

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then the disciples 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. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Acts 1.12,13a,14

*No responses are used at the end of the reading*

*Silence is kept*

## Responsory

As we wait in silence,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*Please stand*

## 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 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.**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*A recessional hymn may be sung*

*The ministers and people depart*

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