

St Swithun's Church Family

Ascension Day

Thursday 13th May 2021



Faith, hope and love

Introduction

Today is Ascension Day. For forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of Jesus, 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 Jesus left this earth and ascended into heaven.

Today we remember that we, the church, are Jesus' body on earth.

Our mission is to love as Jesus commanded us to love.

The Gathering

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

Psalm 47.5

In the name of God,
Creator, Redeemer and 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.

Opening Prayer

Christ has no body now on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours,
Ours are the eyes which must see with Christ's compassion.
Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.
Ours are the hands with which he blesses now.
Amen

Prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Trusting in God's love for all creation let us hear the story of Jesus' parting:

The Ascension Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1: 4-11

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.'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.



Silence followed by Responsory

Let us keep silence as we reflect on Jesus' ascension:

As we mourn the loss of Jesus on this earth – we also rejoice with the disciples that we continue to share Jesus' mission.

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.

Closing Prayer

God of laughter and tears

Immerse us in glory

Clothe us with power

Fill us with wisdom

Bless us with love

Amen



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