



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order for 29th May
Commemoration of the Ascension



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LORD God:

we come today reminded of Your greatness and glory.

We thank You for the wonder of Ascension.

Give us a deeper sense of wonder,

a stronger faith,

and a greater understanding of all You have done;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: John 17:23

Jesus prayed,

*“I want them to be brought together
perfectly as one.*

**This will let the world know
that You sent Me.”**

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

LHS 111: Hail the day that sees Him rise (click [here](#))

**Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia! to His throne above the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia! enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!**

**There for Him high triumph waits; Alleluia! lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
He has conquered death and sin; Alleluia! take the King of glory in! Alleluia!**

**Lo! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia! yet He loves the earth He leaves; Alleluia!
though returning to His throne, Alleluia! still He calls us all His own. Alleluia!**

**See! He lifts His hands above; Alleluia! See! He shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia! blessings on His Church below. Alleluia!**

**Still for us He intercedes, Alleluia! His prevailing death He pleads, Alleluia!
near Himself prepares our place, Alleluia! He the first fruits of our race. Alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia! far above the starry height, Alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia! seeking Thee above the skies. Alleluia!**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823) and others

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

LORD God, You have call us into Your kingdom.

Where we have not lived as Your holy people:

forgive us, LORD,

Where we are ruled by our schedules

and our need for control:

forgive us, LORD,

Where we make kings of the things we acquire

and queens of our immediate desires:

forgive us, LORD,

Where we forget that Your kingdom

is for all people on earth,

and we have failed in our love for others:

forgive us, LORD,

Where we allow ourselves to be ruled by the flesh

rather than being led by Your Spirit:

forgive us, LORD,

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You
and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity.**

But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You,

for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death

of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die
for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given
the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes
and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

INTROIT: From Psalm 47

¹ *Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.*

² *For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.*

³ *He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.*

God has gone up with a shout; praise the LORD.

⁵ *God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*

⁶ *Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

God has gone up with a shout; praise the LORD.

⁸ *God is king over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.*

⁹ *For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted.*

God has gone up with a shout; praise the LORD.

**Glory to the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that Christ will rule over all.

[silence]

Almighty and eternal God,
help us always
willingly to serve you as our king,
with a pure heart.

We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11 Jesus' ascension, promise and commission

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. ³ After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' ⁶ Then they gathered round Him and asked Him, 'Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.'

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 Christ is the supreme Lord over all things

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, mentioning you in my prayers, ¹⁷ so that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, ²⁰ which He performed in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principalities, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things in all ways.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*When Christ ascended on high,
He made captivity itself a captive.
He ascended higher than the heavens,
in order to fill the whole universe.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53 Jesus commissions and blesses the disciples

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

⁴⁴ Then He [Jesus] said to them [His disciples], "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 and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it stands written that the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. But stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. ⁵¹ Now during the blessing He departed and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple courts blessing God.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ,
thank You for fulfilling the Scriptures and returning to the Father.
Fill us with the joy of Your continual presence.

Amen.

AT 161: Majesty (click [here](#))

**Majesty, worship His majesty. Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from His throne
unto His own, His anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty. Jesus, who died, now glorified,
King of all Kings.**

**Majesty, worship His majesty. Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from His throne
unto His own, His anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty. Jesus, who died, now glorified,
King of all Kings.**

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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human. For our sake
He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again 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.**

**We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

My heart is filled with thankfulness (click [here](#))

**My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who bore my pain;
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness, and clothed me with His light,
and wrote His law of righteousness with power upon my heart.**

**My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;
who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough for every step I take,
sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.**

**My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who reigns above;
whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow Him.**

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LITANY OF THE ASCENSION

LORD, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, graciously hear us.

Jesus, King of glory, Your disciples saw You ascend into heaven:

Have mercy on us.

You are seated in glory at the right hand of the Father:

Have mercy on us.

All power in heaven and earth has been given to You, and You rule forever:

Have mercy on us.

You are adored by all God's angels:

Have mercy on us.

You have opened the kingdom of God to all who believe:

Have mercy on us.

You are able to save completely those who come to God through You:

Have mercy on us.

You promise to give whatever we ask in Your name:

Have mercy on us.

You are present through Your body and blood in the sacrament of the altar:

Have mercy on us.

You have gone to prepare a place for us:

Have mercy on us.

You will come again in glory to judge the living and dead:

Have mercy on us.

*By Your glorious resurrection and ascension, by Your all-powerful intercession,
by Your triumphant majesty and power,*

save us, good Lord.

*That we who have risen with You may set our minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on earth;*

hear us, good Lord.

That we may keep Your commandments and remain in Your love;

hear us, good Lord.

That we may have peace in You;

hear us, good Lord.

That You would pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your church:

hear us, good Lord.

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:

Give us Your peace.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Since Christ has ascended to the Father, let us pray that he will come and make God's name known throughout the world by the gift of the Spirit. We respond to the words "Ascended Lord, in your mercy" with "come and rule the world".

Praise to you, ascended Lord, for you rule the world in righteousness. Give wisdom and integrity to all who govern, and give mercy and sound judgment to all who administer the law. Send your Spirit of unity and bring us to live in harmony, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Ascended Lord, in your mercy: **come and rule the world.**

Praise to you, ascended Lord, for you make known to us the true and living God. Guide the church into your word, and make us one in faith. Keep our Lutheran Church of Australia united in confession and purpose. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with your truth, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Ascended Lord, in your mercy: **come and rule the world.**

Praise to you, ascended Lord, for you water the earth and renew it, providing all we need for daily life. Protect us from fire and flood and every natural disaster, and prosper all rightful employment. Send your Spirit of unity and give us joy in our work and family life, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Ascended Lord, in your mercy: **come and rule the world.**

Praise to you, ascended Lord, for you eat with sinners and release those held captive. Bring all who do wrong to change their ways, and take care of those in prison. Watch over all police and prison workers - protect them and guide them in their work. Send your Spirit of unity and move us to remember those our world forgets, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Ascended Lord, in your mercy: **come and rule the world.**

Praise to you, ascended Lord, for you gather and sanctify us in this congregation. Guide our leaders, committees and programs so that we may do your will. Send your Spirit of unity and build up our confession and love, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Ascended Lord, in your mercy: **come and rule the world.**

Praise to you, ascended Lord, for you heal the sick and have compassion on those who suffer. Give hope to those in despair and heal those who are sick. Bless all who care for others, and give them patience and skill. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with compassion, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. And meet the needs of those we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts...

Ascended Lord, in your mercy: **come and rule the world.**

Lord of lords and King of kings, when our work is done take us to be with you in glory. And come, Lord Jesus, come soon. In your holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
for God is the king of all the earth.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May God keep us together in love and joy.

May God keep us together in love and joy.

WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace into the world,
and in Your words and in Your lives
bear witness to the Christ who has ascended
to be everywhere present.*

In the name of Christ. Amen.

LHS 113: "Crown Him with many crowns" (click [here](#))

**Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified:
all hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierced feet
fair flowers of glory now extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time.
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Acts 16:16-34

LHS

- 139 We all believe in one true God*
142 We all believe in one true God* G3
407 If thou but suffer God to guide thee* G6
411 If God be my defender (esp v 5)* G3

AT

- 155 We believe
362 I believe, I do
384 If we will trust in God to guide us
455 All this I believe

Second reading: Revelation 22:12-14,16,17,20,21

LHS

- 147 O Morning Star, so bright and fair* G3
156 Jesus our Saviour, of true joy the giver (esp vv 1,4)* G3
187 Glorious things of thee are spoken G9
210 Thy Word, O God, declareth* G5
306 I heard the voice of Jesus say G7
308 'Come unto Me, ye weary* G6
327 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness* G3
330 Rock of ages, cleft for me G6
489 Rejoice, rejoice, believers* G4
847 The Lamb's high banquet called to share G8 (*alt tune 839, G7*)

AT

- 137 I heard the voice of Jesus say
220 There'll be peace
302 Soon and very soon
309 When the Lord returns
315 Drawn to the light
345 Nothing but the blood
453 The world is waiting eagerly

Gospel: John 17:20-26

LHS

- 176 We come, O Christ, to Thee G9
239 Son of God, eternal Saviour G4
510 May the grace of Christ our Saviour G7
783 Christ is the world's light, he and no other G6
798 Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round G6
800 May we be one GS
803 Peace with the Father, peace with Christ his Son G7

AT

- 172 May we be one
462 Hand in hand