

CALL TO WORSHIP

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to the faith we profess (Hebrews 4:14).

HE IS EXALTED,

The King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted,
Forever exalted
And I will praise His name!

He is the Lord,
Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high!

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, risen and ascended Lord,
for now there is in heaven one who
understands us and prays for us. Our
words echo heaven as we cry out in
praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever!**

CONFESSION ACTION

Pause the service, go and wash your hands. As you wash them, think about how you feel about the coronavirus, think about how you feel about others, and think about how you feel about yourself. Once you have washed your hands, then return to this time of worship.

Lord, wash us clean. Forgive us for the wrongs we have done to you, to each other and to ourselves. Forgive us and set us free in your holy name. Amen.

READING: Acts 1:6-11

⁶Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.'

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They 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.'

REFLECTION: What is the Ascension all about? PART 1**ONE DAY WHEN HEAVEN**

was filled with his praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is he
Word became flesh and the light shined
among us, His glory revealed

*Living, he loved me
Dying, he saved me
Buried, he carried my sins far away
Rising, he justified freely forever
One day he's coming
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.*

One day they led him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed him to die on a tree

Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
 Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is he
 Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a
 tree, and took the nails for me

Living, he loved me

One day the grave could conceal him no
 longer
 One day the stone rolled away from the door
 Then he arose, o'er death he had conquered
 Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.
 Death could not hold him,
 The grave could not keep him from rising
 again

Living, he loved me

One day the trumpet will sound for his
 coming
 One day the skies with his glories will shine
 Wonderful day, my beloved ones, bringing
 Glorious Saviour, this Jesus is mine

Living, he loved me

REFLECTION: What is the Ascension all about? PART 1

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you that you have ascended to heaven, and you will return again to restore all things in heaven and on earth. Help us to know we belong to you and are part of that eternal future, for your glory's sake. **Amen.**

ACTION PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Take a tissue and hold it in your hand. Tissues are fragile, they tear easily. As we pray think about someone you know or a group you know who may feel fragile or vulnerable at this time. If it helps, write

the name of the person or group on the tissue, or draw a picture instead.

Put the tissue in your pocket or next to your bed to remember to pray for them.

Now take a plaster, any size. Do you know someone who is unwell at the moment, maybe someone in your family or possibly a friend. If you want to, write their name on the plaster as a hope and a prayer that they will get better soon. Now pray for that unwell person.

Stick the plaster somewhere you can see it every day. It will remind you to pray for them.

Finally, take some hand sanitiser and squirt a little into your hands and rub it in until it's all gone. As you rub your hands, think about and pray for all those doctors, nurses and other health professional who are working hard to help those who are ill get better. Pray for their safety and protection. Pray for those working hard to develop a vaccine too.

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 for ever. Amen.

O LORD MY GOD! when I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works Thy hand hath
made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe
displayed:

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
(repeat)*

When through the woods and forest
glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the
trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain
grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle
breeze;

Then sings my soul...

And when I think that God His Son not
sparing,
Sent Him to die—I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly
bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul...

When Christ shall come with shout of
acclamation
And take me home—what joy shall fill my
heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great
Thou art!

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God to Thee,*

*How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
(repeat)*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Lord Jesus, you have returned to the splendour of heaven but have not left us alone. We praise you that you continue to pray for us. May we be inspired by your ascension to spread your message of hope and the certainty of your return; for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.