

Jesus Ascends to Heaven

Acts 1: 1 – 11
8th May 2022



Bowthorpe
Church

Welcome and notices

- Christian Aid Quiz on Saturday 14th May, 6pm. There is food as well as the quiz. Donations from £8.
- Church Meeting on Sunday 15th May after the morning service.



Call to worship and opening prayer

We meet in the presence of God, who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds.



Since we believe that Jesus our Saviour has ascended into heaven, and opened the way into God's presence for us, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith; let us hold fast to the hope we profess; and let us consider



how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Faithful one, whose word is life, come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Confession

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin



by which we have denied God's
claim upon us. Shall we say the
words of the confession together.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your constant love; in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences. Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart,



O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Give me the joy of your help again and strengthen me with a willing spirit. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Therefore, to all who truly repent
this is his gracious word: 'Your sins
are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.



Songs/hymns praise and worship



The Offertory

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present this money, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name. **Amen**



Prayer for Sunday Club

Lord we pray for the Sunday Club for our youngsters and leaders. May their time together open young hearts and minds to your glory and saving grace. May their activities be enjoyable as well as instructive.



We thank you for the preparation,
prayer and deliberation that has
gone into it and ask your blessing
will be with them as go their
activities. **Amen**

Acts 1: 1 - 11

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 baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the



Holy Spirit.”

6 Then they gathered around 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.”

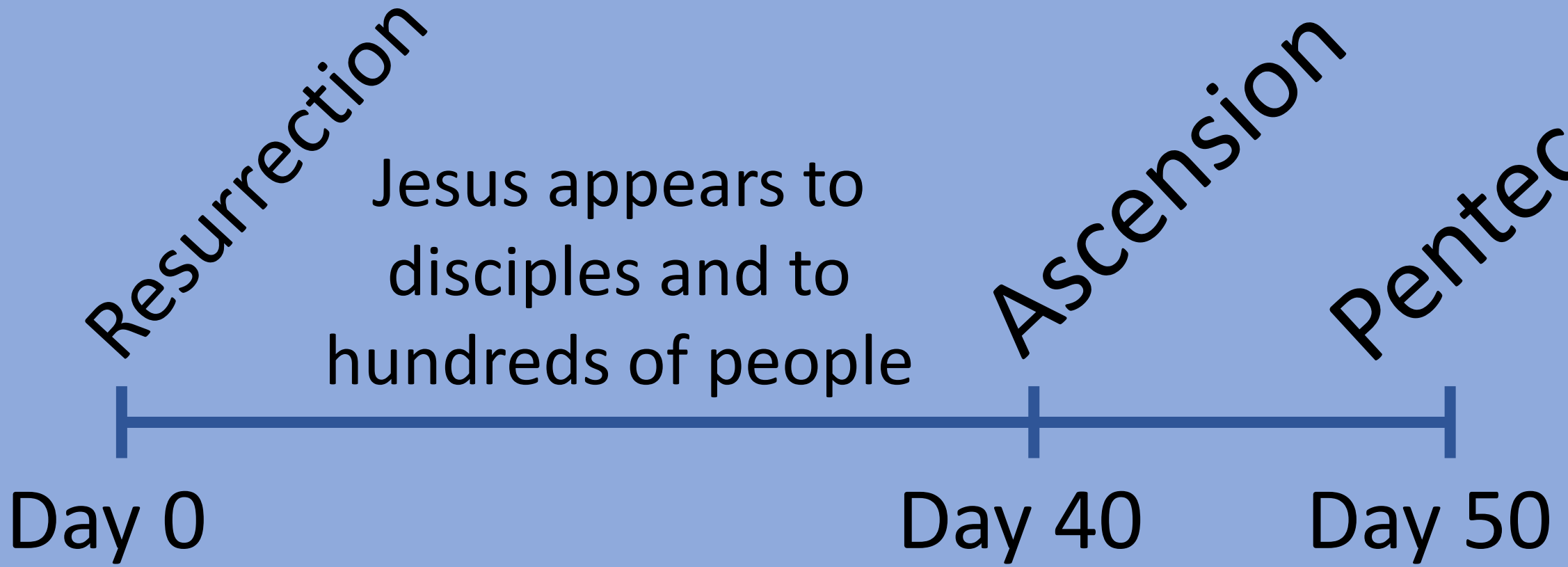


This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus ascends to heaven





Waiting for the promise



Prayers of intercession



Song before communion



The peace

'Where two or three are gathered together in my name,' says the Lord, 'there am I in the midst of them.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



The act of breaking bread

When we share the cup of the Lord and break bread together, we express our common participation in the benefits of Jesus' death for us. So we should examine ourselves before we eat the bread and drink



the cup, confessing our sins to God, acknowledging the need to care for one another, and renewing our trust in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. As we prepare to gather around the Lords table let us take a few moments of silence to clear our hearts and our minds and remember why we do this.



We come to this table not because we must, but because we may. We come not because we are strong, but because we are weak. We come not because we have perfect faith, but because we have questions and even doubts.

But we come nonetheless because Jesus



invites us to come and we will never be turned away.

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you:



The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.'



In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23–26)



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.**



Distribution of the bread and wine

If you require a gluten free wafer please ask.

If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to receive a blessing.



Parents, if you believe your children are ready in understanding to take communion, please indicate that they can receive the bread and wine. Otherwise, please ask for a blessing.

Otherwise please use this time for silent prayer and reflection or join quietly in the singing.



Prayer after communion

Gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here.

You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the



bread of life and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you; and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Closing song



Closing prayer and blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself; the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service; the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; 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.