

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

AN ORDER OF WORD AND TABLE¹

***Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord.

***Opening Hymn - This Is God's Wondrous World (URW 71)**

***Opening Prayer**

Let us pray:

Glory to God forever and ever.

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

God of Light, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

The Reading - Luke 24:44-53

The Prayers of the People

The Invitation to the Table

The Confession

Merciful God, have mercy on us. In your great compassion, forgive how we fail to live as if you are Lord of all, how we fail to believe in your presence, how we fail to share in your means of grace with all your creation. Uphold us by your Spirit, that might serve you joyfully and live as if your Son is indeed with us, even now. It is in his forgiving name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

***Sharing in Christ's Peace**

The Offering

***The Doxology**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you thanks, God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

¹ Adapted from "A Celebration of Word and Table," *Upper Room Worshipbook* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2006).

You called out a people for yourself,
Through them you would bless all the nations of the world.
And yet even as they turned from you,
You chased after them, freeing them and
bringing them back into your kingdom.

And so it is, with all your people on earth
and with all the great company of heaven,
we join in singing their unending hymn,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you,
and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
He came among us, proclaiming that the time had come again
when you would call out your people
as a light to the nations.

This king fed the hungry,
This savior healed the sick,
This prophet ate with the outcasts and the lost.

Through his suffering, death and resurrection
you delivered us from slavery to sin and death
and made a new covenant by water and the Holy Spirit,
in which the church was given birth.

On this night he gave himself over to the mob,
at table with those who would desert him,
Jesus took bread, blessed it,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

When supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks and praise, and said,
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
For the remembrance of me.”

So, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves with praise and thanksgiving
as a holy, living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your gathered people
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ
that we might be for all the world
the body of Christ
restored by his life-blood

So the church cries: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

So the church shouts: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

So the church pleads: **Come Holy Spirit!**

By your Spirit, make us one,
One in Christ,
One with each other,
One in ministry to all the world,
Until Christ comes once more in final victory,
and we feast at his table forevermore.

Through your beloved Son,
with your Holy Spirit in your holy Church
All honor and glory is yours,
Almighty, all-reigning, everliving God,
Here, now, and always.

Amen.

****The Lord's Prayer***

****Sharing of the Bread & Cup***

Prayer after the Meal

Having been consumed into your Body by your love, send us to all who hunger for your sustaining Presence that we may gratefully share the Feast. **Amen.**

****Closing Hymn - Within the Reign of God (URW 128, 1,2,6)***

****Dismissal with Blessing***

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors. **Amen.**

BEATING THE BOUNDS

As you walk, stop to pray over the places that make up the parish: homes, streets, restaurants, schools, grocery stores, fire stations, fields, and office spaces.

Here are some prayers you can use as you go:

For a beginning,

Gracious God, you know that we so often need boundaries. After all, the saying goes that good fences make good neighbors. We need boundaries to protect us from one another, from ourselves, from you. Burst our bounds, Lord, even as we walk the boundaries of this parish. Burst these bounds so that room is made for the stranger, for the gifts of new life, healing for those who need it most, love for those who are lost, and strength for those who are weak. Today we beat the bounds to banish fear and hatred, cowardice and complacency. In Christ's name, the one who burst the bounds of death and rose to reign over all things. Amen.

For a home,

God, bless this home.

Let your love rest upon it and your presence be manifested in it. May all who live here grow in grace, and may this be a place of hospitality to all who seek shelter and peace. We call upon you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to save, shield and surround this place, this day, and every day. Amen.

For a school,

God, bless this school, and all who come to learn within its walls.

Let your love rest upon it, that it would be a place of safety and study, a place of virtue and understanding. Guard its doors, keep it from all harm, and may it be a place of peace. In the name of Christ our teacher we pray. Amen.

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For a workplace,

God, bless this place of work and service.

Let your love rest upon it and your presence fill its walls. May all who work here be kept safe from all harm, and may their labors be fruitful for the sake of your kingdom. Surround this place with your love and strength. Amen.

For a grocery store or restaurant,

God, bless this place of rest and delight.

Bless the food to the nourishment of our bodies, and bless all those who have prepared it for our sake. May we be filled with all good things, and delight in the fruits of your creation with care and thanksgiving. In Christ's name, who offers himself as bread and wine for the hungry. Amen.

For a street,

God, bless this open road.

You have invited us to be pilgrims with you, wanderers in search of people of peace. Bless this street, all who travel upon it, knowing that you have come to make a way in the wilderness, the make the crooked straight, to prepare the way of the Lord. Amen.

For an open space,

God, bless this land and all who live here.

Take up space in our lives, even where we least expect it. May your kingdom take root even here, in this small corner of the world. Come be our host, our guide, our water, our bread, our king, our shepherd, our companion. For you are over all and filling all, our ascended Lord. Amen.

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