

**CONGREGATIONS OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY, BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**  
**TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD**

21 May 2020

Bulletin for Ascension Day

**ORDER OF SERVICE WITHOUT HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 106 SINCE CHRIST IS GONE TO HEAVEN, HIS HOME

1  
Since Christ is gone to heaven, His home,  
I know that I will follow;  
And in this hope I overcome  
All anguish, doubt, and sorrow.  
For where the head is, will I know,  
The members He has left below  
In time He surely gathers.

2  
Since Christ hath reached His glorious throne  
And gifts for men obtaineth,  
My heart can rest in heaven alone,  
No other rest remaineth.  
I long to be with Him on high;  
My heart and thoughts would ever fly  
To Him who is my treasure.

3  
From Thy ascension let such grace  
To me, O Lord, be given,  
That steadfast faith may guide my ways  
Unfaltering up to heaven,  
And at Thy voice I may depart  
With joy to dwell where Thou, Lord, art:  
O hear my supplication.

THE CONFESSION

Dear friends in Christ: 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.

Our help is in the name of the Lord. **He made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord. **Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us: Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 the children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

THE INTROIT

Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with a joyful voice!  
For the LORD Most High is awesome. He is the great King over all the earth.  
May He subjugate peoples under us and nations under our feet!  
He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom He loves.  
God has gone up with a shout, the LORD, with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praise to God! Sing praise! Sing praise to our King! Sing praise!  
For God is the King of all the earth. Sing a psalm of instruction!  
God has been reigning over the nations. God has been sitting on His holy throne.  
The nobles of the peoples have gathered together as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted.

Psalm 47

THE GLORY TO THE FATHER

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

THE LORD HAVE MERCY

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest.

**And on earth peace, among men with whom He is pleased. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.                      **And also with you.**

**Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

The First Reading for \_\_\_\_\_ is written in chapter \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_\_.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.    **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

The Second Reading is written in chapter \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_\_.

After the reading:            This is the Word of the Lord.

**Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah.**

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_.

**Glory be to You, O Lord.**

After the Gospel:            This is the Gospel of the Lord.    **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN 109 DRAW US TO THEE

1  
 Draw us to Thee;  
 For then shall we  
 Walk in Thy steps for ever,  
 And hasten on  
 Where Thou art gone,  
 To be with Thee, dear Saviour.

2  
 Draw us to Thee,  
 Lord, lovingly;  
 Let us depart with gladness,  
 That we may be  
 For ever free  
 From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

3  
 Draw us to Thee;  
 O grant that we  
 May walk the road to heaven;  
 Direct our way,  
 Lest we should stray,  
 And from Thy paths be driven.

4  
 Draw us to Thee;  
 That also we  
 Thy heavenly bliss inherit,  
 And ever dwell  
 Where sin and hell  
 No more can vex our spirit.

5  
 Draw us to Thee  
 Unceasingly;  
 Into Thy kingdom take us;  
 Let us for e'er  
 Thy glory share;  
 Thy saints and joint-heirs make us.

SERMON - ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, YET STILL WITH US Luke 24:44-53

HYMN 115 REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

1  
 Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
 Your Lord and King adore;  
 Mortals, give thanks and sing,  
 And triumph evermore:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

2  
 Jesus, The Saviour, reigns,  
 The God of truth and love;  
 When He had purged our stains,  
 He took His seat above:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

3  
 His kingdom cannot fail;  
 He rules o'er earth and heaven;  
 The keys of death and hell  
 Are to our Jesus given:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

4  
 He sits at God's right hand  
 Till all His foes submit,  
 And bow to His command,  
 And fall beneath His feet:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

THE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

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.**

HYMN 221 SPREAD, O SPREAD, THOU MIGHTY WORD

1  
 Spread, O spread, thou mighty Word,  
 Spread the kingdom of the Lord,  
 Wheresoe'er His breath has given  
 Life to beings meant for heaven.

2  
 Tell them how the Father's will  
 Made the world, and keeps it still;  
 How His only Son He gave,  
 Man from sin and death to save.

3  
 Tell of our Redeemer's love,  
 Who for ever doth remove  
 By His holy sacrifice  
 All the guilt that on us lies.

4  
 Tell them of the Spirit given  
 Now to guide us up to heaven,  
 Strong and holy, just and true,  
 Working both to will and do.

5  
 Up! The ripening fields ye see,  
 Mighty shall the harvest be;  
 But the reapers still are few,  
 Great the work they have to do.

6  
 Lord of harvest, let there be  
 Joy and strength to work for Thee,  
 Till the nations far and near  
 See Thy light, and learn Thy fear.

## Jesus' Ascension

The Ascension was in the vicinity of Bethany (Luke 24:50) on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12), a short distance east of Jerusalem. This is the only account in the New Testament of what the apostles actually saw when Jesus ascended.

Jesus being taken up and hidden from their sight made it clear that the apostles must not expect Him to establish a political kingdom with visible glory. It brought home to them that they must wait for the promised Spirit to empower them for their mission task. It signalled that Jesus would no longer appear and disappear as He had been doing during the 40 days since His resurrection.

The apostles did not see the resurrection, but they saw Jesus alive afterward. They did see the Ascension, but from now on Jesus would be hidden from their sight.

The sudden appearance of the "two men," the description of their clothing, and the fact that they had a message from God made it clear that they were angels. The description is similar to that in Luke 24:4, where the angels appear to Peter and John at Jesus' empty tomb. Angels are spirits, but at times they assumed human form to communicate with people.

The apostles kept straining to see Jesus after the cloud had hid Him from their sight. The angels' question reminded them that they had a mission to carry out and that they must not spend their lives gazing at the sky. Jesus will be returning, and there is work to do before that.

The angels' words are also an answer to the disciples' question about the kingdom when they had asked, "*Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?*" (Acts 1:6). The disciples would be workers in God's kingdom of grace, bringing His gracious rule into people's lives. The perfect fulfillment of that kingdom will occur when Jesus returns visibly.

The heaven to which Jesus ascended is not the realm of astronomers, the sky with its stars and planets. It is not a place where He is confined or to which He has retired. It is the state of glory in which He who shares our humanity enjoys all the power and glory that He had with the Father from eternity. God "*raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule, authority, power, dominion and every other name that can be mentioned, not only in this age but also in the one to come. He also put everything under His feet and appointed Him as the Head of everything, for the benefit of the church, which is His body, filled completely by Him who fills everything in every way*" (Ephesians 1:20-23). He fills the whole universe (Ephesians 4:10).

Our Saviour did not retire when He ascended to heaven. He has not deserted us. He is involved and He is in charge. The apostles' acts and the church's work in every generation are His doing. This work is not only done for Him; it is done by Him.

He will return from heaven visibly, say the angels.

*"Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even the men who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."* (Revelation 1:7).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Sunday, May 31 at Bethlehem Toowoomba, pastor will be available from 8.00am to 12.00pm for members to come along and receive Holy Communion.

Sunday, 7 June at St John's Minden, pastor will be available from 9.00am to 11.00am for members to come along and receive Holy Communion.

During these times, 9 members at a time will be able to come into the church where we shall hold a short HC service (about 25 mins). We should be able to hold 2 services an hour. We still have to adhere to social distancing (keeping 1.5m apart), and while members are in the church, those waiting outside can stay in their cars or gather outside. Up to ten can congregate outside together.

Instructions on seating in the church and receiving the Lord's Supper will be given on the day. Hand wash will also be available. If you are not feeling well, please stay at home, and if any of you cannot make any of the services, please let me know so that I can arrange to come to you.

Divine services will still continue to be recorded and made available.

I am not planning on resuming Bible Studies, Women's Guild etc for at least another month yet.

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