## *Morning Prayer for Ascension Day*

### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Your throne has been established from of old;
**You are from everlasting. Alleluia.**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the darkness of death you have raised your Christ
to the right hand of your majesty on high.
The pioneer of our faith, his passion accomplished,
has opened for us the way to heaven
and sends on us the promised Spirit.
May we be ready to follow the Way
and so be brought to the glory of his presence
where songs of triumph for ever sound:
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

***Silence is kept.***

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.
**Amen.**

**T**he Word of God

**Acts 1.1-11**

**Sermon**

#### *Gospel Canticle*

***The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said***

***Refrain:***

**I am ascending to my Father and to your Father;**
**to my God and your God. Alleluia.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
Who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
 set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life

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And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation •
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God •
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, •
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**
**and to the Holy Spirit;**
**as it was in the beginning is now**
**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**I am ascending to my Father and to your Father;**
**to my God and your God. Alleluia.**

### Prayers

### *Intercessions are offered*

***The Collect of the day is said***

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
**Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer is said***

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**
**hallowed be your name,**
**your kingdom come,**
**your will be done,**
**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.**

### The Conclusion

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**