



*all* hallows church

## Sharing the Feast of Life on Ascension Day

### Introduction

Creator God, Source of all life,  
how gloriously does your name resound,  
**echoing to the bounds of the universe!**

The pioneer of our salvation  
**has triumphed over suffering and death.**

The firstborn among many brothers and sisters  
**has led the way into the presence of God.**

### Opening hymn

#### Gathering

Risen, ascending Christ,  
you are the song of God leaping through the universe;  
you are our lark ascending,  
drawing our praises up and beyond this passing day:  
**To you, our Christ, be glory and gladness for ever. Amen.**

You are the sailor back from the sea  
returning to your beginning with earth's human treasure:  
**To you, our Christ, be glory and gladness for ever. Amen.**

You are the first-born claiming your heritage,  
promising a home for pilgrims who travel the Way:  
**To you, our Christ, be glory and gladness for ever. Amen.**

We celebrate with joy a journey over,  
a task accomplished, a promise fulfilled:  
**To you, our Christ, be glory and gladness for ever. Amen.**

#### The Gloria

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**  
*[Glory to God in the highest!]*

#### Prayer for the Day

#### Ministry of the Word

##### **First reading**

*At the end of the first reading the reader says:*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

##### **Psalm 47**

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.  
He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

**Clap your hands, all you peoples;**  
**shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.

**Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.

**Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

### ***Gradual hymn***

#### ***The Gospel***

*Before the Gospel reading the reader says:*  
The Gospel reading is from ...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:*  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **Sermon or other reflection**

*5-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell*

#### **Affirmation of Faith** *[said]*

**We believe in God,**

**Who made the sun and the sky, the stars and the sea,  
who calls us to live responsibly.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,**

**who became human, who healed the sick,  
who talked to children, who made friends with sinners.  
He burned brightly and offended many.**

**His journey was one of life and death and resurrection.  
His light continues to shine in the darkness.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**who inspires the scriptures  
and whose breath we breathe.**

**We believe that God calls us to be a community,  
committed to one another,  
offering a welcome to everyone,  
old and young, rich and poor, strong and weak.**

**We believe that God calls us to be peacemakers,  
workers for justice, brothers and sisters,  
a light for the world. Amen.**

#### **Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession**

##### **Reconciliation**

We acknowledge the pain and hurt of our world, and our part in that pain, and we seek to know God's forgiveness and healing:

**O God, you have searched us out and known us,  
and all that we are is open to you.**

**We confess that we have sinned:  
we have used our power to dominate  
and our weakness to manipulate;  
we have evaded responsibility  
and failed to confront evil;  
we have denied dignity to ourselves  
and to our sisters and brothers.**

*2-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell*

**We turn to you, O God:**

**we renounce evil;  
we claim your love;  
we choose to be made whole.**

## **Forgiveness**

St Paul wrote:

'We have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.'

In Christ, we are forgiven and we are transformed. Sisters and brothers, Christ shares with you his risen life and sets you free:  
journey on with hope and joy.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **The Peace**

*We sing:*

**Come and fill our hearts with your love:**

**You alone, O God, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your love: Alleluia!**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We share the Peace with one another, and then gather around the altar.*

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

*The minister thanks God for the bread and wine and for ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **Thanksgiving Prayer**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open up your hearts.

**We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The minister offers our thanks and praise, finishing with:*

*We sing together:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of heaven and earth adored,**

**Ceasing never, God for ever,**

**Holy, holy Lord.**

*The minister says the words of institution, finishing with these or similar words:*

Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.

*We sing:*

**He is Lord, he is Lord,**

**he is risen from the dead and he is Lord.**

**Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess,**

**that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**He is Love, he is Love,**

**he is risen from the dead and he is Love.**

**Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess,**

**that Jesus Christ is Love.**

Come now, disturbing Spirit of our God,  
breathe on these bodily things,

**and make us one body in Christ.**

Lift us up from earthly dullness and unbelief;  
make us ready for your coming in transforming fire;  
and turn our hearts to the mending of the world,  
through Jesus Christ, the name above all names.

**Amen.**

*We sing:*

**Alleluia! [ $\times 3$ ]**

**Allelu – alleluia!**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

O God in heaven,

**Mother and Father of us all,  
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.**

## **Fourfold Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread ... [*x4*]

The bread we break

is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

**Lamb of God** [*said*]

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.** [*x2*]

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us your peace.**

## **Invitation**

*The minister invites all to receive Communion.*

## **The Communion**

*As each person receives the bread and wine:*

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**

The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

*We remain standing around the altar until everyone has received communion, and then return to our seats.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**When we stand gazing upwards,  
bring us down to earth  
in the faces of the needy.**

**When we look to you for action,  
empower us to do your work  
by the touch of your Spirit.**

**As ruler over all,  
love us into action, fire us with your zeal,  
and enrich us with your grace. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Holy Jesus, we have seen you and known you;  
we know your glory and your love:

**we lift up our hearts for your blessing.**

As you lifted up your hands to bless your disciples,  
you lift them today to bless us, and in response

**we lift up our hands for your blessing.**

You have promised us the power of your Spirit  
to guide and empower us in the work you call us to:

**we lift up our lives for your blessing.**

The blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go forth in power and gladness,  
that we may do justice, make peace, share joy,  
and grow in love.

**Alleluia! Amen.**