

Welcome to St Michael's Church



The Ascension of the Lord

We celebrate today Christ's ascension to his eternal glory in heaven and express our Christian hope that where he, our Head, has gone before us, we, his body, will one day follow, to live forever in the Kingdom of our Father.

Opening Sentence

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia.

Greeting and Entrance

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Call to Confession

My brothers and sisters,
to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries,
let us first call to mind our sins.

**Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sin,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we
worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Prayer

Let us pray
that the risen Christ will lead us to eternal life.

God our Father,
make us joyful in the ascension of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we follow him into the new creation,
for his ascension is our glory and our hope.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. It is he had said what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.

Now having met together, they asked him, Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel? He replied, It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his

own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.

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

Responsorial Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

R .God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R**

Second reading

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians (1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely

great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation

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

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go; make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20)
Glory to you, O Lord.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Intercessions

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said
peace be with you!

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

Offertory Prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness
we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands
have made; it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness
we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become for us our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. You called us into being
and have now gathered us together. Renew us by your Holy Spirit
that we may live to your glory and come to share the life of your
kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

Let us pray my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, receive our offering
as we celebrate the ascension of Christ your Son.
May his gifts help us rise with him to the joys of heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Lift up your hearts,
we lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Preface

Father, all-powerful and ever living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

Today the Lord Jesus, the king of glory,
the conqueror of sin and death,
ascended to heaven while the angels sang his praises.

Christ, the mediator between God and man,
judge of the world and Lord of all,
has passed beyond our sight,
not to abandon us but to be our hope.
Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church;
where he has gone, we hope to follow.
The joy of the resurrection and ascension
renews the whole world,
while the choirs of heaven sing for ever to your glory:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Who in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying.
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying.
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of all,
rejoicing at his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate the memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the holy spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Holy Mary mother of God, St
Michael and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Communion

Our Father

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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, the power, and the glory for ever
and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one Body,
because we all share in one Bread.**

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
grant us peace.**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World.
Happy are those who are called to His supper.

**Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world, Alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Father,
in this Eucharist
we touch the divine life you give to the world.
Help us to follow Christ with love to eternal life
where he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May almighty God bless you on this day
when his only son ascended into heaven
to prepare a place for you. **Amen.**

After his resurrection, Christ was seen by his disciples.
When he appears as a judge
may you be pleasing for ever in his sight. **Amen.**

You believe that Jesus has taken his seat in majesty
at the right hand of the Father.
May you have the joy of experiencing
that he is also with you to the end of time,
according to his promise. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia!

Regina Coeli

Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven! Alleluia.
He whom thou was meet to bear. Alleluia.
As he promised hath arisen. Alleluia.
Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who by the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has been pleased to fill the world with joy, grant, we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may receive the joys of eternal life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen