



## Welcome to this Ascension Day Service

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

Psalm 47.5

### Call to worship

Jesus, Son of God, who was lifted into heaven,  
**we worship you with great joy.**

Jesus, Son of God, raised far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come,  
**we worship you with great joy.**

Jesus, Son of God, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and whose kingship is one that shall never be destroyed,  
**we worship you with great joy.**

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

### Songs

Lord I lift your name on high  
Lord I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high

**Repeat from top**

Songwriter: Rick Doyle Founds. Performed by St Paul's Worship Group, Slough.

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

Songwriters: Charitie Bancroft / Vikki Cook Performed by St Paul's Worship Group, Slough.

## Confession

*After a period of reflection*

God of glory and love and power and possibility,  
We bend our knees in awe and we lift up our hearts and our hands to you.

Forgive the lack of worship in our lives.  
We are grumpy and self-centred.  
We refuse to lift up our eyes to see you  
and to open our ears and hear your wonderful commission,  
and so our lives fail to speak of you and to serve you.

Today, your day of glory, draw us to yourself.  
Accept and heal and empower us.  
Draw us into your life and your work  
so that we may draw others, too,  
to love and praise and live for you.  
Amen.

First Reading Ephesians 1. 15- end ... read to us by Ninan, from St Paul's - Slough.

**15** For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, **16** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>[f]</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Second Reading Luke 24. 36-53 ... read to us by Angelina, from St Paul's - Slough.

**36** While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

**37** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

**40** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41** And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate it in their presence.

**44** He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

**45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

**50** When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. **52** Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. **53** And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Sermon. Revd Neil McCathie is opening God's Word for us today from Ephesians 1.

We renew our commitment to our reigning Lord

Let us affirm the faith of the Church which Christ commissions us to share with the world

Do you believe and trust in God the Father source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in Him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

## Song

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high  
And I will praise Him  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high  
And I will praise Him  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high

Songwriters: Eric Davis / James Hairston / Twila I Paris. Performed by St Paul's Worship Group, Slough.

Intercessions ... prepared and read to us by Nadeem Azam & Nigel Lowe

Response: Lord hear us    **Lord graciously hear us**

## The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
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.**

*Silence is kept.*

As we wait in silence,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

#### Final Song

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you

Songwriters: Paul Joseph Baloche. Performed by St Paul's Worship Group, Slough.

### Final Blessing

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,  
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

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

**Amen.**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

# Thank you for joining us today.

This service was produced by St George's Church, Britwell; St Paul's Church, Slough & Stoke Poges Church.  
Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents ... God bless you and keep you always.

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