

# The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands



**Ascension Day**  
Holy Communion

# Welcome

## Hymn

### The Gathering

God has gone up with a shout,  
**the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

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

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

### Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

## The Ascension Reading

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.4-11)*

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

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 Collect**

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us  
to eternal life.

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 Liturgy of the Word**

### **Reading**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Address**

## **The 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 and our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ, seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,  
living for ever to intercede for us,  
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,  
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,  
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,  
drawing humanity into the life of God,  
pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,  
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,  
surround with your saints and angels  
those who have died trusting your promises.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,  
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,  
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your  
service.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order  
to worship at your feet;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**



# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'.  
Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.

## Hymn

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.  
Born of a woman,  
he came to the rescue of our human race.  
Dying for us,  
he trampled death and conquered sin.  
By the glory of his resurrection  
he opened the way to life eternal  
and by his ascension,  
gave us the sure hope  
that where he is we may also be.  
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy  
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
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.

**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 the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this 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 the blessed Virgin Mary  
and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour be yours, Almighty Father,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Lord, we died with you on the cross.  
**Now we are raised to new life.**  
We were buried in your tomb.  
**Now we share in your resurrection.**  
Live in us, that we may live in you.

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

**Alleluia.**

*On behalf of the church and the community, Communion is administered.*

## **Hymn**

## **Anthem**

## **Prayer after Communion**

God our Father,

you have raised our humanity in Christ

and have fed us with the bread of heaven:

mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,

we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12,13a,14)*

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*Silence is kept.*

### **Responsory**

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.**

## **The Blessing**

God the Father,  
who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

**Amen.**

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

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

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

## **Hymn**



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