

# The Sung Eucharist Ascension Day



Thursday 26 May 2022  
5.30 pm

Missa in Honorem Sancti Dominici *Edmund Rubbra*

## **Welcome to Manchester Cathedral for this celebration of Holy Communion**

Welcome to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George in the heart of the City of Manchester. The building is the old mediaeval Parish Church of Manchester. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421 and it became Manchester's Cathedral on the creation of the Diocese of Manchester in 1847. It is believed that there has been a church on or near this site for over a thousand years.

### **Ascension Day**

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ.

On the fortieth day there has - from the late fourth century - been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

### **Welcome to the Cathedral**

We offer a very warm welcome to any who are visiting us today.

If you would normally receive communion in your own church you are very welcome to do so here. If you do not receive communion please feel free to come up for a blessing instead. Just bow your head when you come up so the Eucharistic Minister will know.

### **Live streaming**

Please note that most acts of worship in Manchester Cathedral are now live streamed. Although cameras are focused on those leading worship, please be aware that your image may be inadvertently captured and streamed. If you would like further information on the position of the camera at a particular act of worship, please ask Cathedral Staff upon arrival.

### **Safeguarding**

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook.

We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

## **Visiting Manchester Cathedral**

For your personal safety, the Dean and Chapter strongly encourage you to wear masks and to use the hand sanitisers provided when visiting the Cathedral.

### **Gift Aid**

During the service there will be a collection for the mission and aims of the Cathedral. If you would like the Cathedral to reclaim the tax that you have paid on the donation, at no cost to yourself, please use the Gift Aid envelope that is with this order of service.

### **Hearing-loop**

The Cathedral has a hearing-loop.  
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

### **Have you turned off your mobile phone?**

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

### **Photography**

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

### **Gluten-free wafers**

If you require a gluten-free communion wafer please inform a verger before the service. Please note that the wine may contain traces of gluten.

## **Today's Service**

### **President**

The Dean

### **Preacher**

The Rev'd Canon Chris Bracegirdle,  
Vicar of Bolton

### **Musicians**

The Cathedral Choir is conducted by Christopher Stokes,  
Organist and Master of the Choristers.  
The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt,  
Sub-Organist

Large-print copies of this booklet are also available

### **Music before the service**

Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père *Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)*  
from *L'Ascension*

# The Gathering

*All stand*

## Hymn

Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!  
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!  
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!  
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!  
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!  
Take the King of glory in. Alleluya!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!  
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!  
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!  
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!  
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluya!  
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!  
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!

Llanfair NEH 130  
Melody by Robert Williams  
of Anglesey (1781-1821)

Charles Wesley (1707-88) and  
Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823)

## The Greeting

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

President Grace mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

All **and also with you.**

*All sit*

## Introduction

President 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

Acts 1. 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, Jesus 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup> He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.' <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

<sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> 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.'

*At the end*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

President 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.

*All stand*

**Gloria in excelsis**

sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Et in terra pax hominibus  
bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,  
Jesu Christe. Domine Deus,  
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris.

Amen.

*Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace,  
good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee  
for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father Almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son  
Jesu Christ; O Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the  
world,  
receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand  
of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God  
the Father.*

*Amen.*

*Remain standing*

## **The Collect**

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

*Silence is kept*

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 forever.

All **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **Reading**

Ephesians 1. 15-end

### **A reading from the Letter of Ephesians.**

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

At the end the reader says

All                    This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

## Hymn

O King most high of earth and sky  
On prostrate death thou treadest,  
And with thy blood dost mark the road  
Whereby to heaven thou leadest.

O Christ, behold thine orphaned fold,  
Which thou hast borne with anguish,  
Steeped in the tide from thy rent side;  
O leave us not to languish!

The glorious gain of all thy pain  
Henceforth dost thou inherit;  
Now comes the hour--then gently shower  
On us thy promised Spirit!

*Ach Gott und Herr* NEH 131  
Later version of a melody in  
Neu-Leipziger Gesangbuch 1682  
Harmony by J S Bach (1685-1750)

*Latin Breviary hymn* 17th century  
Tr William Blew (1808-94)

## Gospel Reading

Luke 24.44-end

All turn to face the Gospel book. An acclamation (*Alleluia*) heralds the Gospel reading

All



Cantor            Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.  
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.  
All sing            **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All



<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to the disciples, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*At the end of the reading*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*Please sit*

**Sermon**

The Rev'd Canon Chris Bracegirdle  
Vicar of Bolton

*A period of silence is kept after the sermon for reflection.*

*Please stand.*

## 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 for 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.**

*Please sit or kneel*

### **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.

All **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.

All **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.

All **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.

All **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.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and 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.

All **Amen.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

President Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed  
into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God,  
let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith,  
and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

*Silence is kept*

All **Our Father,  
we have sinned against heaven and against you.  
We are not worthy to be called your children.  
We turn to you again.  
Have mercy on us,  
bring us back to yourself  
as those who once were dead  
but now have life through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

President May the God of love  
bring you back to himself,  
forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

President 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'.

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine

### Hymn

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph,  
See the King in royal state  
Riding on the clouds his chariot  
To his heavenly palace gate;  
Hark! the choirs of angel voices  
Joyful alleluyas sing,  
And the portals high are lifted  
To receive their heavenly King.

Who is this that comes in glory,  
With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies,  
He has gained the victory;  
He who on the cross did suffer,  
He who from the grave arose,  
He has vanquished sin and Satan,  
He by death has spoiled his foes.

Thou hast raised our human nature  
In the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heavenly places,  
There with thee in glory stand;  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne;  
Mighty Lord, in thine ascension  
We by faith behold our own.

Glory be to God the Father;  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Dying, risen, ascending for us,  
Who the heavenly realm has won;  
Glory to the Holy Spirit;  
To One God in persons Three;  
Glory both in earth and heaven,  
Glory, endless glory be.

*Rex Glorïae NEH 132*  
*Henry Smart (1813-79)*

*Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)*

President Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.  
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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

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

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

President 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:

Choir	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
	Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>

President 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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:  
All **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

President 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 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.

All **Amen.**

*All sit or kneel and continue to pray.*

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

President 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,  
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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

President Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All **Now we are raised to new life.**

President We were buried in your tomb.

All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

President Live in us, that we may live in you.

### **The Giving of Communion**

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

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

### **Prayer for Spiritual Holy Communion**

I believe that you, O Jesus, are in the most holy Sacrament. I love you and desire you. Come into my heart. I embrace you. Never leave me. May the burning and most sweet power of your love, O Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech you, absorb my mind that I may die through love of your love, who were graciously pleased to die through love of my love.

*Prayer of St Francis*

*Members of all Christian Churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please keep your hands down.*

*Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds (i.e. consecrated bread and wine). If you prefer, continuing to receive only bread is also permitted. Please refrain from touching the chalice and consecrated bread must not be intincted (dipped) in the wine.*

*Please follow the directions of the stewards.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available.*

*During the administration of communion, the Choir sings the Agnus Dei and an Anthem.*

## **Agnus Dei**

Agnus Dei,                      *O Lamb of God*  
qui tollis peccata mundi,      *that takest away the sins of the world,*  
miserere nobis.                      *have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,                      *O Lamb of God*  
qui tollis peccata mundi,      *that takest away the sins of the world,*  
miserere nobis.                      *have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,                      *O Lamb of God*  
qui tollis peccata mundi,      *that takest away the sins of the world,*  
dona nobis pacem.                      *grant us thy peace.*

## **Anthem**

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:  
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praises out,  
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,  
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,  
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody  
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;  
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string  
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

*Gerald Finzi (1901-56)*

*Edward Taylor (1646-1729)*

*After communion all stand when the president approaches the holy table*

## **Prayer after Communion**

President      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.

All              **Amen.**

All           **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.**

### **Post Communion Hymn**

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now:  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords  
Is his, is his by right,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords,  
And heaven's eternal light;

The joy of all who dwell above,  
The joy of all below,  
To whom he manifests his love,  
And grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame.  
With all its grace is given:  
Their name an everlasting name,  
Their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,  
They reign with him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know  
The mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to him;  
His people's hope, his people's wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.

*St Magnus NEH 134*  
*Jeremiah Clarke (c1673-1707)*

*Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)*

## Reading

Acts 1. 12, 13a, 14  
read by the Deacon

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. <sup>14</sup> They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*No response is used at the end of the reading.*

*Silence is kept.*

## Responsory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Silence may be kept.*

## **The Blessing**

President Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

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

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

## **Music after the service**

Transports de joie  
from L'Ascension

*Olivier Messiaen*

*The Choir and ministers depart  
Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the music,  
readings and prayers, and as a reminder of your visit this evening.*

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed .

A Sonnet for Ascension by *Malcolm Guite* ©2012



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