



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (A)

(Missal page 397)

### THE PARISH MASS

#### The Introductory Rites

*When the bell rings we stand*

**A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New songs throughout the world shall  
ring:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alle-  
luia!**

**The holy apostolic band  
upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
and with his followers they see  
their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alle-  
luia!**

**To them the shining angels cry,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
"This is the Savior," thus they say.  
"This is his glorious triumph day."  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alle-  
luia!**

**"You see him now, ascending high  
up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**"Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alle-  
luia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alle-  
luia!**

*Priest:* ✠ In the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit

*People:* **Amen**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you  
*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*The Mass is introduced along with its intention and  
theme and we are invited to call to mind our sins  
using these or similar words*

*Choir:* You were sent to heal the contrite  
of heart. Lord have mercy

*People:* **Lord Have mercy**

*Choir:* You came to call, you came to call  
sinners. Christ have mercy

*People:* **Christ have mercy**

*Choir:* You are seated at the right hand of  
the Father, to intercede for us.  
Lord have mercy

*People:* **Lord Have mercy**

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*Priest:* May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*People:* **Amen.**

*The Gloria in excelsis now follows*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace  
to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks  
for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the  
world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right  
hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
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 or prayer for the day*

Let us pray.  
Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout  
thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ  
your Son is our exaltation, and, where the  
Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*We sit for The First Reading*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'You heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 47(46):2-3. 6-7. 8-9. □6*

God has gone up with shouts of joy.  
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
**God has gone up with shouts of joy.  
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

**His kingdom cannot fail;  
He rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**He sits at God's right hand  
Till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command,  
And fall beneath his feet:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

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

*The Communion Sentence*

*Priest:* Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

*We come forward to receive Holy Communion*

*We sing the 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.**

*We stand for the Post Communion prayer*

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.

*People: Amen*

*Any Notices etc may follow now.*

The Concluding Rites

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People: and with your spirit.*

*Priest:* Bow down for God's blessing

*Priest:* May almighty God bless you, for on this very day his Only Begotten Son pierced the heights of heaven and unlocked for you the way to ascend to where he is.

*People: Amen.*

*Priest:* May he grant that, as Christ after his Resurrection was seen plainly by his disciples, so when he comes as Judge he may show himself merciful to you for all eternity.

*People: Amen.*

*Priest:* And may you, who believe he is seated with the Father in his majesty, know with joy the fulfilment of his promise to stay with you until the end of time.

*People: Amen.*

*Priest:* And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and Remain with you for ever.

*People: Amen.*

*Priest:* Go forth the Mass is ended

*People: Thanks be to God*

*We sing our final Hymn*

**REJOICE, the Lord is King,  
Your Lord and King adore;  
Mortals, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains,  
He took his seat above:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, to be feared,  
the great king over all the earth.  
**God has gone up with shouts of joy.  
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

God has gone 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!  
**God has gone up with shouts of joy.  
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

For God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with a hymn.  
God is reigning over nations.  
God sits upon his holy throne.  
**God has gone up with shouts of joy.  
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

*The Second Reading follows*

A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

*Ephesians 1:16-23*

Brothers and Sisters: I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.  
The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

*We stand for the Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord. I am with you always, to the end of the age.  
**Alleluia Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you  
*People: And with your spirit.*

✠A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

*Matthew 28:16-20*

At that time: The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'  
The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Homily now follows*

*We sit*

*We stand for*

*The Profession of Faith (Creed)*

**I believe in one God, the Father  
almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not  
made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including and  
became man, all bow.*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of  
the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under**

Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the ✠Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come Amen.

*The Bidding Prayers now follow*

*Response*

*Priest:* Lord hear us

*People:* **Lord graciously hear us.**

*Priest:* ✠Rest eternal grant unto them  
O Lord

*People:* **and let light perpetual shine upon them**

*Priest:* May they rest in peace

*People:* **Amen**

*People:* **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

*We sing the Offertory 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 alleluia 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. Amen.**

*If the prayers of blessing are said aloud the people respond each time*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*We stand*

Pray, my Brothers and Sisters that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father

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

*The prayer over the Offerings*

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*People:* **And with your spirit**

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts

*People:* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right and just**

*At the end of the preface we sing*

**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.**

*We kneel*

*After the words of Consecration the priest says:*

*Priest:* The mystery of faith.

*People:* **Save us save us saviour of the world for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

*At the conclusion of the prayer:*

Through him, and with him, and in him O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

*People:* **AMEN.**

*We stand for The Lord's Prayer*

*Priest:* At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

*People:* **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.**

*Priest:* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*People:* **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

*Priest:* Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* Let us offer each other the sign of peace

*We share the sign of peace*

*The Breaking of the Bread*

*People:* **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.**

*We kneel*

*Priest:* ✠Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.