



The 7th Sunday of Easter 2020 The Sunday after the Ascension

Readings:

Psalm 68.1-10 Psalm 68.32-35 Acts 1.6-14
1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11

Backing music:

'Luke - the Calf' - Iona 'Hear my Prayer' - Purcell
'Graceful Trinity' - Bainbridge & Fitzgerald

Welcome to worship today, the 7th and last Sunday of Easter. Next Sunday we will be celebrating Pentecost, Whitsun, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said he had to leave, return to the Father, in order for the Spirit to come, and so on Thursday we remembered the event of Jesus' Ascension, his being taken up into the heavens, 40 days after his Easter Resurrection from death; his departure and yet his great giving of himself so that each one of us might know his presence.

Make yourself comfortable, sitting, kneeling or standing; set this time aside for worship; maybe light a candle or burn some incense. Be still where you are and find the stillness within...

**Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm.
Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease.
Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.**

- Northumbria Community

O Lord open our lips.

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

**As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 68:32-end

Hymn 1 - Christ whose glory fills the skies
**Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness arise,**

**triumph o'er the shades of night;
day-spring from on high, be near,
day-star, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

- Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**Collect: Risen Christ, you have raised our human
nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek
and serve you, that we may join you at the
Father's side, where you reign with the Holy
Spirit in glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

With the response to, 'In your mercy, forgive us.'
being, 'Lord, hear us and help us.'

Psalm 68.1-10

Hymn 2 - Lord, the light of your love
**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord,
and let there be light.**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;**

by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness -
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

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1st Reading - Acts 1.6-14

2nd Reading - 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Hymn 3 - Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
lifest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus, true and living bread.

Prince of life, for us thou livest,
by thy body souls are healed;
Prince of peace, thy peace thou givest,
by thy blood is pardon sealed;
alleluia, alleluia!
Word of God, in flesh revealed.

Paschal lamb! Thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

Great high priest of our profession,
through the veil thou enterest in;
by thy mighty intercession
grace and mercy thou canst win;
alleluia, alleluia!
Only sacrifice for sin.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the lamb who died,
alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

George Hugh Bourne (1840 - 1925)

Gospel - John 17.1-11

Sermon

Hymn 4 - From heaven you came
From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;

not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Prayer

With the response to, 'Lord, hear us.'
being, 'Lord, graciously hear us.'

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your
triumph, fill your Church on earth with power
and compassion, that all who are estranged by
sin may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 5 - Jesus shall reign
Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his Name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the long amen.

- Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Blessing