

# The Parish Church of St. Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



Ascension Day  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2020, 7.00 p.m.

# Welcome

Below is an edited copy of the service sheet that would have been used this Thursday for Ascension Day. Perhaps you would like to use some of the prayers contained in this and read the Scripture passages. You might even like to sing the hymns, a search on YouTube should provide you with the music, or, if you are able, you could use this and join us on Facebook at 7 p.m. this Thursday May 21st to worship together in spirit, if not in body.

I look forward to the day when we can again share Parish Mass together.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

## Canon June

Before the liturgy begins the notices are given.

A period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use the Prayer of Preparation:

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

We stand as a bell is rung to begin our worship.

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# The Gathering

## Hymn (130)

**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!**

**See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluya!  
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluya!  
Though returning to his throne, Alleluya!  
Still he calls mankind his own: Alleluya!**

**See! He lifts his hands above; Alleluya!  
See! He shows the prints of love; Alleluya!  
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluya!  
Blessings on his church below: 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!**



Charles Wesley, 1707-88, and Thomas Cotterill, 1779-1823

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

**Amen.**

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Lord 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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## Prayers of Penitence

### Invitation to confession

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.

Hebrews 4.14; 10.22

**O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.**

**In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

cf Isaiah 6

*The president says*

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given you  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
✠forgive you your sins,  
open your eyes to Gods truth,  
strengthen you to do Gods will  
and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## 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.

*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 for ever.  
Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Alleluia



## Gospel Reading

Luke 24.44-53

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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.'

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

# 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.**

# 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.**

We say together:

**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.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

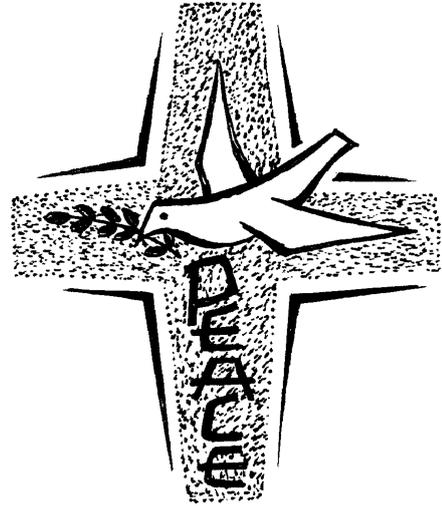
## The Peace

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 offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*



## Preparation of the Table

### Offertory Hymn (296)

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first-begotten from the dead,  
thou alone, our strong defender,  
liftest up thy people's head.**

**Alleluya,**

**Jesu, true and living bread!**

**Here our humblest homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know thee now.**

**Alleluya,**

**thou art here, we ask not how.**

**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee,  
Branch and Flower of Jesse's Stem.**

**Alleluya,**

**we in worship join with them.**

*Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished  
once for all when thou wast slain,  
in its fulness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluya,  
cleansing souls from every stain.*

*Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
stricken Rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluya,  
risen, ascended, glorified.*

George Hugh Bourne, 1840-1925



## Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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 church.**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray.

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine



may be to us his body and his blood;  
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, 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

*The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

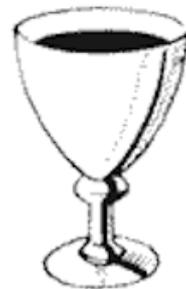
Live in us, that we may live in you.

## 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 your peace.**



## Giving of Communion

*The president says the invitation to 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.**

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

**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.**

## The Dismissal

**Reading**      Acts 1.12,13a,14

*We Stand*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.**

## Hymn (352)

**Crown Him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of Him who died for thee,  
and hail Him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies won  
which now His brow adorn;  
fruit of the mystic Rose,  
as of that Rose the Stem;  
the Root whence mercy ever flows,  
the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love,  
behold His hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end,  
and round His piercèd feet  
fair flowers of Paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.**



**Glassed in a sea of light,  
where everlasting waves  
reflect His throne – the Infinite -  
who lives – and loves – and saves.**

verses 1, 3-5: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

verse 2: Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

**Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*The clergy and people depart.*

## Organ Voluntary

