



# Ascension Day Service for Thy Kingdom Come

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## OPENING HYMN / SONG

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## INTRODUCTION

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*(Each paragraph could be spoken by a different voice)*

We have come together as the family of God in Our Father's presence as we celebrate the reign of our risen and ascended Lord Jesus and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We come rejoicing in the sacrifice and victory of our Saviour and conscious of His welcoming love to all who turn to him in faith.

We have come to repent of our failures as a church: our concerns with our own internal issues rather than the needs of the world: the struggle for justice, the lack of food and shelter, the desperate hunger for love, acceptance, peace and forgiveness that God gives us in Christ.

We have come to pray "Come Holy Spirit" on the needs of our world: that those in power might have the humility to seek God's guidance and the courage to do His will.

We have come carrying five people in our hearts and minds who are not yet following the Lord Jesus, praying that God would call them in Christ to experience His saving love.

We have come to worship Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit that we might understand more of His glorious redeeming love and be filled with His Holy Spirit to be His lights in the world.



## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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*Minister*      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.

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,  
this is your world and we are your people:  
come among us and save us.

*All*              We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

*All*              We have seen the ill-treatment of others  
and have not gone to their aid;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

*All*              We have condoned evil and dishonesty  
and failed to strive for justice;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

*All*              We have heard the good news of Christ,  
but have failed to share it with others;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

*All*              We have not loved you with all our heart,  
nor our neighbours as ourselves;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

*Minister*      May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*              **Amen.**



## THE COLLECT

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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.

## HYMN / SONG

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## BIBLE READING

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Acts 1:4-14

*Additional element: For example: Testimony / Choir item / video greeting as desired*

## HYMN / SONG

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## SERMON

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### **Pray for Five:**

*Invite the congregation to call to mind five friends, family members, work colleagues or others who are not yet following the Lord Jesus. If it is practical they might write initials on small cards which could be collected and offered at the altar as a sign of giving the people to God for his blessing. In a space of silence encourage the people to pray for their five that they would discover the saving love of God in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Intercessions:**

*This could be led by two people or more.*



## **Congregational response:**

### *Come Holy Spirit*

On our world with all its needs, on countries torn apart by war or civil unrest, on those who suffer from lack of food, medicine or shelter, on all those who bring hope and relief.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

On our churches, those that thrive grow and reach new people, those that struggle and find it difficult to reach out into the community, on Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, on our Bishops and Clergy and all who serve in leadership especially Archbishop Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

On our five friends for whom we pray, that they may come to know Your saving love in our Lord Jesus Christ, on our congregations that we may be truly be the light of the world, reflecting the light of Christ.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

On those we know in special need, those who are sick, those facing the uncertainty of unemployment, those who have been bereaved, those coping with problems that seem overwhelming.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

On all your people across the world, in all denominations and traditions, fill us with your Spirit, equip us with your gifts, produce in us your fruit and set us on fire with love for you.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

We join our prayers together in the words our Saviour taught us.

*[Insert whichever text you normally use]*

## **HYMN / SONG**

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## **THE BLESSING**

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*Note:*

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