

# Ascension Service Vespers

Welcome

## OPENING HYMN 528

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till Thou inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**3 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)

## OPENING SENTENCES

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth will tell of your praise.**

O God, deliver me.

**O Lord, be quick to help me.**

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, \* and will be forevermore. Amen.**  
Hallelujah.

## PSALM 47

P: Clap your hands, all you nations;

**C: shout to God with cries of joy**

P: How awesome is the Lord Most High,

**C: the great King over all the earth!**

P: He subdued nations under us,

**C: peoples under our feet.**

P: He chose our inheritance for us,

**C: the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

P: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

**C: the Lord amid the sounding trumpets.**

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises.

**C: For God is the King of all the earth;**

P: sing to him a psalm of praise.

**C God reigns over the nations;**

P: God is seated on his holy throne.

**C: The nobles of the nations assemble**

P: as the peoples of the God of Abraham,

**C: for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.**

## READING(S)

The (first) reading is written in chapter \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,  
beginning at verse \_\_\_\_\_.

The (second) reading...

*After each reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

*After the Gospel reading:*

Lord, your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

**Lord, your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.**

Your word is everlasting truth,

**and a light to my path.**

Glory to the Father and the Son

**and the Holy Spirit.**

**Lord, your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.**

## HYMN 169

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

**2 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;**

**3 The joy of all who dwell above,  
The joy of all below,  
To whom He manifests His love,  
And grants His name to know.**

**4 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.**

**5 They suffer with their Lord below,  
They reign with Him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know  
The mystery of His love.**

**6 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.**

## **SERMON**

*After the sermon:*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
**and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.**

Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
**eternal God, and Mary's Son, we adore you forevermore.**

## **Song of Mary**

### **HYMN 903**

**1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his Word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name - the Lord, the mighty One.**

**3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

Based on the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)  
Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-

## **PRAYERS**

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## **OTHER PRAYERS**

*After each prayer: Lord in your mercy.....***hear our prayer. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 forever. Amen.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,  
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)**

**(Let us pray that Christ will rule over all. [silence])**

**Thank you, eternal Father, that your Son Jesus ascended to your right hand, to rule over all things as Lord. Keep your church in the unity that the Spirit gives, and bring all creation to submit to Christ as Lord. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

May the Lord give strength to his people.

**May the Lord bless his people with peace.**

Lord God, from whom all holy desires, all good purposes, and all right works proceed: Give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give. Defend us from the fear of our enemies, and set our hearts to obey your commandments, so that we may live on earth in rest and quietness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **LET US BLESS**

Let us bless the Lord.

**God be praised forevermore.**

## **BLESSING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with † you all. **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN 219**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where're the sun  
Does his successive journeys run:  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

- 2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And endless praises crown His head;  
His name like incense shall arise  
With every morning sacrifice.**
- 3 People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.**
- 4 Blessings abound where're He reigns:  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains:  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blest.**
- 5 Where He displays His healing power,  
Death and the curse are known no more;  
In Him the tribes of Adam boast  
More blessings than their father lost.**
- 6 Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honours to our king:  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And the earth repeat the loud Amen.**

Isaac Watts (674-1748 alt)