

The Church in Westbury Park

A Service for Ascension Day

Introduction and Welcome

What are you doing here?

We are looking for Jesus

What are you doing here?

We have questions to ask

What are you doing here?

We seek hope; we seek healing

What are you doing here?

We have heard God calling our names

Confession

Father, forgive us for not trusting you

Father, forgive us

when we forget your love for us

and the cost of that love,

Father forgive our wilful disobedience

and change our hearts

Silence

Father, forgive us

and send us your Spirit to strengthen us

Jesus Christ, Lord of Life, give us life again.

Spirit of truth, lead us into all truth. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,

forgive us our sins,

open our eyes to God's truth,

strengthen us to do God's will

and give us the joy of his kingdom,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Gloria

Glo-ry to God in the high - - est and peace to his peo-ple on
earth. O Lord God heav'n ly King, al - migh-ty God and Fath - er, we
wor-ship - you we give you- thanks, we praise you- for- your glo - ry
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fath-er, Lord God, Lamb of God You
take a-way the sins of the world, have mer- cy on us. You are sea-ted at the right hand of the
Fath-er, re - ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the ho-ly -One
You a-lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the most high Je sus- Christ with the
ho - - ly spi-rit, In the glo ry of God the Fa - ther A - - - - men

The Collect

Silence is kept.

O God, whose glory veils you from our sight, and in whom we lose our bearings, help us to walk in Jesus' footsteps, and preach the gospel of forgiveness among the peoples of the world. Make us ready to receive your Holy Spirit and to be heralds of your kingdom, that our home may be in the heavens, and all our hope in you, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

Reading Acts 1.1-11 *At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Luke 24.44-53

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

Talk

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Too often our prayers are only one-way, forgetting the role that Jesus has in praying for us, God's children. The following is a dialogue of Jesus' words from John 17 and our own prayers of response, with plenty of space for quietness before and after.

Jesus' prayer

Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed: Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

Our prayers

Father, may you be glorified in our worship, in our fellowship in faithful lives and obedient hearts.

Jesus' prayer

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

Our prayers

Father, we pray for your children of every race, language and nation the hungry, the war-weary, the neglected, the rootless. Help us to see them as you look upon them.

Jesus' prayer

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Our prayers

Father we pray for ourselves and for one another tempted as we are to fall away from you in our disobedience or lack of faith and we lift to you those who feel assailed by sickness of body, mind or spirit...

Jesus' prayer

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Our prayers

Renew your church and make us holy; a temple for your Holy Spirit, that by our worship, our fellowship and through faithful lives and obedient hearts all your children may be drawn to you.

Jesus' prayer

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be brought to complete unity that the world may know that you sent me and love them even as you have loved me.

Amen.

The Peace

We are called to preach a Gospel of repentance and the forgiveness of sins, and so to live in peace. May the peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Look here is bread and wine

Let us celebrate the feast of God

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 our thanks and praise

To you Creator God, who spoke the universe into being through your Word, who formed us in your own image, who called us by name, to you we lift our hearts
and give you thanks and praise

To you Redeeming God, who was born as one of us in Jesus, who told stories, restored the lost and broken, and broke barriers, who died and rose for us, and lives and reigns for ever, to you we lift our hearts
and give our thanks and praise

To you Sustaining God, who is ever-present with us through the Holy Spirit, who calls us, leads us, inspires and upholds us, who brings us into a fellowship beyond earthly ties, to you we lift our hearts
and give our thanks and praise

And now we join our voices with those of your people of every time and place as we praise you with the song of heaven:

**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.**

Before he parted from his friends, Jesus prepared a last supper to share with them. He took some bread, and gave thanks for it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me' he said.

When supper was all but over, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them to drink. '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.

Ascended Christ, In the breaking of the bread and the pouring of wine,

Come to us

As we do now what you once did on earth,

Be present with us

Breathe your Spirit upon this bread and wine.

May they become our spiritual food and drink.

Breathe your Spirit upon us

May we be your body, revealing your presence in the world. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

Because of the new ways we are currently called to be church we are not able to meet together and receive the bread and wine. The president will receive it on behalf of all of us and we each receive the sacrament spiritually - in a practise known as spiritual reception which has been practised by those who for many reasons are unable to be at church for hundreds of years.

Act of Spiritual Reception

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence. Amen

Prayer after Communion

As one body, united at your table, we celebrate, Jesus, your rising into glory. Now empower us, by the Holy Spirit, to be your witnesses in our generation, and grant us your blessing of joy, that in the temple of our lives, we may continually raise the living God. **Amen.**

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12,13a,14)

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.

The Blessing

May the God known of old in clouds of glory,
and the Christ who suffered and rose from the dead,
at one with the Spirit who guides and inspires us,
make us faithful witnesses to the truth;
and the blessing of God all-loving, creator, redeemer and
sustainer, be with us all today and for evermore. **Amen.**

Responsory

To the people of Jerusalem
let us proclaim your love.

To the people of Judaea
let us preach forgiveness.

To the people of Samaria
let us be a witness.

To the people of the world
let us be a faithful servant.

Where clouds of uncertainty surround me
help us follow in Jesus' footsteps.

When we search for you in heaven
give us grace to find you on earth.

And together may we, your people, glorify your name
**each moment, on every step
of our life's journey. Amen.**