



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Mass for Ascension Day (14th May) 2026

As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? The Lord will return just as You have seen Him ascend. Alleluia! All nations clap your hands: shout unto God with a voice of joy. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Men of Galilee &c

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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:

We have lived by our own strength and not by the power of Your Resurrection: Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison

We have lived by the light of our own eyes as faithless and not believing: Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

We have lived for this world alone and doubted our home in Heaven: Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
[Amen.](#)

Let us go forth in peace.
+ [In the Name of Christ. Amen.](#)

Eternal Monarch, King most high,
Whose Blood hath brought redemption nigh,
By Whom the death of Death was wrought
And conquering grace's battle fought.

Ascending to the throne of might,
And seated at the Father's right,
All power in Heaven is Jesu's own,
That here His manhood had not known.

Yea, angels tremble when they see
How changed is our humanity;
For flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,
And God, the flesh of God, hath reigned.

At the Easter Garden:

Christ ascended to Heaven, leading captivity captive. Alleluia!
And giving gifts to men. Alleluia”!

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Whose blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens, that He might rule over all: give us faith to perceive the fulfilment of His promise that He is still with us on earth until the end of time, Lord, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Be Thou our joy and strong defence,
Who art our future recompense:
So shall the light that springs from Thee
Be ours through all eternity.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One.

Words: C5 Latin
Tr JM Neale 1818 - 66
Music: Gonfalon Royal
Percy Buck 1871 - 1947

During the Gloria in excelsis, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.

Glory be to God on high.

And in earth peace, goodwill towards men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,

we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,

we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King,

God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right

hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord;

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high,

+ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

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 with Him and continually dwell; Who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Splendour of eternal light, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth." And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was 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.

Clap your hands together, all you peoples; ♦ O sing to God with shouts of joy.

For the Lord Most High is to be feared; ♦ he is the great King over all the earth.

God has gone up with a merry noise, ♦ the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

O sing praises to God, sing praises; ♦ sing praises to our King, sing praises.

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For God is the King of all the earth; ♦ sing praises with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations; ♦ God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

A Reading from the Letter to the Church in Ephesus.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all nations: I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

A homily may follow.

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds.
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from Heaven

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and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried,
and the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into Heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again in glory
to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the prophets.
And we believe
one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church,
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
+ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Through Christ, Who ascended to the right hand of the God to make intercession for us, let us lay our needs and those of the world before God our Father:

Jesus Christ, great high Priest, living eternally to intercede for us, we 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, we pray for the world, that you will make it subject to Your just and gentle rule:
Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

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Jesus Christ, Prince of peace, reconciling people with God and one another, draw the poison of bitterness and dissolve the conflicts of our world:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, we pray for our sisters and brothers in need, distress or sorrow:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Jesus Christ, ascended Lord, bringing us to Your glory through Your Sacrifice, receive into Your Kingdom all who have died:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

In union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, as we celebrate the New Life of Your Son, we ask that our prayers may rise before You like incense; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

[He is risen indeed. Alleluia!](#)

Jesus says, “My 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 with thy spirit.](#)

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

Men of Galilee, why do you gaze at the sky with astonishment? The same Jesus, Who was taken from you into Heaven, will come by the very way in which you saw Him go into Heaven. Alleluia!

Let us here who represent Cherubim guards around God's throne, As they cry out their thrice holy hymn, Praising the life-giving Trinity, Lay aside all earthly care. Borne by the power of angels' wings To His people now comes the King of kings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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!

There the glorious triumph waits waits; Alleluya!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
He hath vaquished death and sin; Alleluya!
Take the King of glory in ! 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!

Still for us He intercedes; Alleluya!
His prevailing Death He pleads; Alleluya!
Near Himself prepares our place, Alleluya!
Harbinger of human race. Alleluya!

Lord, though parted frm our sight, Alleluya!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!
Grant our heats 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!

Words: Charles Wesley 1707 – 88 and

Thomas Cotterill 1779 – 1823

Music: Llanfair

Melody Robert Williams of Anglesey 1781 - 1821

The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present. At the end:

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.

Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer You this day, and renew us in His transfigured life, the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

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 hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his Apostles
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
Amen,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Amen,
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Instructed by saving precepts and taught by divine example, we are bold
to say:
Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed by 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.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

I, the Lord, am with you always: until the end of time. Alleluia!

Holy Communion follows.

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendour,
First begotten from the dead,
Thou alone our strong Defender,
Liftest up Thy people's head.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesu, true and living Bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for Faith's discernment pray we,
Let we fail to know Thee now.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou are 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.
Alleluia,! Alleluia!
We in worship join with them.

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Paschal lamb, Thine Offering finished
Once for all when Thou was slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken rock from streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship Thee, the Lamb Who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Risen, Ascended, Glorified.

Words: GH Bourne 1840 - 1925
Music: Bryn Calfaria
Melody by William Owen 1813 - 93

After Holy Communion:

All power has been given to Me in earth and Heaven: go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

Let us pray:

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; in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notices may follow.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of His gifts and bring you to reign with Him in glory;; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the Name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!

O, higher than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou, bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious magnify the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia,) alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray:

O God, Who through the Resurrection of Thy Son, hath brought joy to the whole world; grant us with the Blessed Virgin Mary to attain to the joys of life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Head that once crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

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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.

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

To them the Cross, with all its shame,
With all its Grace is given:
Their name an everlasting name,
Their name the joy of Heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The Mystery of His Love.

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.

Words: Thomas Kelly 1769 – 1854
Music: S Magnus
Jeremiah Clarke c1673 - 1707

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