

WIMBORNE MINSTER
READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY
24 MAY 2020

Collect:

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. **Amen**

Acts 1: 6 – 14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, '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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.'

Then they 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, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (NRSV)

1 Peter 4: 12 - 14, 5: 6 – 11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (NRSV)

John 17: 1 - 11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' (NRSV)

Prayers (provided by Heather and Colin Davey)

Please join in with the Taize chant response which will be led by the Davey family.

Taize response – In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice. Look to God, do not be afraid, lift up your voice for the Lord is near, lift up your voice for the Lord is near.

Risen and Ascended Lord, you alone know the reason for our being. Be with us each day and each night and hear us as we pray.

We pray for the church worldwide: for its work and witness. Bless Andrew and our team of clergy and lay ministers. Inspire us all to keep our faith, to live out our beliefs and to trust in you.

Taize response

We pray for all families. Surround them with love, peace and a sense of your presence. We bring before you the children and young people from our churches, praying for members of the Sunday School and the choir.

We lift before you those who live alone and for those suffering in body, mind or spirit. Comfort and heal them.

Taize response

Help us all to find comfort in you, though many of us are anxious and afraid. In our sufferings, help us to find solidarity with each other and with you. Show us your care, your restorative strength and help us to endure our current trials with humility, faith and trust.

We pray and give thanks for all those who have gone before us, naming them in our own hearts.

Taize response

We give thanks for all the good things around us: for beauty in nature, for our food and shelter and for our human experiences.

We ask that you bless and give strength to our key workers. May we work together, showing gratitude, responsibility and humility and not giving into weakness, selfishness and self-sabotage.

Taize response

Hear us as we offer our personal petitions, knowing that you know our needs before we ask. Release us, save us, defend us and enfold us in the Blessed Trinity.

This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Taize response

Closing Prayer

Almighty God,
Your ascended Son has sent us into the world
To preach the good news of your kingdom:
Inspire us with your Spirit
And fill our hearts with the fire of your love,
That all who hear your Word
May be drawn to you,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Acknowledgements: Collect and prayer from Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000

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