

Service for Week 11th – 17th May 2026

Ascension Day 14th May By Chaplain

Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ
You were brought low,
Yet you are above all and beyond all.
You were fully human,
Yet you are divine.
You were taken into heaven,
Yet you are here by our side.
And we can know you as a friend.
So, with all people in every age,
We bow before you and praise you as
the risen Christ.
The King of kings and Lord of all,
To the glory of God the Father

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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 them 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

Bible Reading Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I
wrote about all that Jesus began to do
and to teach until the day he was

taken up to heaven, after giving
instructions through the Holy Spirit to
the apostles he had chosen.

After his suffering, he showed himself
to these men and gave many
convincing proofs that he was alive. He
appeared to them over a period of
forty days and spoke about the
kingdom of God. On one occasion,
while he was eating with them, he
gave them this command: "Do not
leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift
my Father promised, which you have
heard me speak about. For John
baptized with water, but in a few days
you will be baptized with the Holy
Spirit." So when they met together,
they asked him, "Lord, are you at this
time going to restore the kingdom to
Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for
you to know the times or dates the
Father has set by his own authority.
But you will receive power when the
Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will
be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in
all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends
of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up
before their very eyes, and a cloud hid
him from their sight. They were
looking intently up into the sky as he
was going, when suddenly two men
dressed in white stood beside them.
"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do
you stand here looking into the sky?
This same Jesus, who has been taken
from you into heaven, will come back

in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

On Thursday this week we remember the Ascension of Jesus. By ascension we mean the time when Jesus – after coming back and appearing to his disciples and followers, he then returns to be with God.

In Luke’s gospel we read that before Jesus leaves them, he offers a prayer for his disciples and for us. This is Jesus’s prayer. Holy Father, protect them so that they may be one as we are one. While I was here, I protected them, but now I am to return to you I ask you to protect them. While I was here, I taught them about you – but people rejected them ‘the world hated them.’ because Jesus said - they are not of the world as I am not of the world.

The disciples knew that day from what Jesus was saying that something was going to happen very soon. But they still had the mistaken idea that Jesus was going to cause the Romans to give up the government of Israel and that the Jewish authorities will be restored. They ask Jesus “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus puts them straight on this and says it is not for them to know God’s plans for the future they should not be concerned about that. Jesus

tells them that after he has gone, they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to tell people throughout the region and to other countries about his life, his teachings and about the love of God. There then follows what is perhaps a stylized account of how Jesus is taken up into heaven. Their reaction was to stand gazing up at the sky. Heavenly voices then asked the question “why do you stand here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, and will come back.

There have been times in my life, and perhaps yours, very difficult times when we can’t see the way ahead. Those times when we gaze upwards and ask the question ‘where are you God? I need your help now.’ But those heavenly voices remind us that we are asking the wrong question. They remind us that God in Jesus has returned through the Holy Spirit. God is very much here with us now every moment of the day. God is with us through our most difficult times in life even when we can’t sense his presence, he is here with us. Jesus had this prayer for us ‘Holy Father protect them’ **Amen**

Closing Prayer

Broaden my vision Lord, deepen my faith, kindle my imagination, that I may glimpse your glory, and work faithfully for your kingdom.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by ‘Prayfully Yours’ by Nick Fawcett