

Ascension Sunday (b) 12th May 2024

the beginning of a week of prayer for Christian Unity

Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ???
Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

Theme – **THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION**

*leader: We gather to celebrate Jesus' ascending,
on or about the fortieth day after Easter Day.
The timing of the celebration is a matter of convenience,
enabling us to separate out one aspect
of the total Easter event.
It is about how the Christian community continues
after the historical Jesus leaves them.*

(Announce the opening hymn:)

Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ☩ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share,
be with us:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with
confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate:*

*leader: Jesus, raised in glory, intercede for us:
- (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

*leader: Jesus, remaining with us until the end of time:
- (pause) - Christ, have mercy:*

*all: **Christ, have mercy:***

*leader: Jesus, the most High One, acclaimed by angels:
- (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

*leader: May almighty God, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration
of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of the kingdom.*

*all: **Amen***

GLORIA *invitation*

leader: With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to God.

Opening Prayer

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) God of power and might,
in the mystery of the Ascension
You have raised up and glorified Your Son
and exalted our humanity at Your right hand.
Confirm the good news Your Church proclaims,
so that when Christ returns in glory
all nations may be gathered into the kingdom,
where he lives and reigns with You
now and always, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever:*

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Acts 1 : 1 – 11)*

*leader: The first reading from Acts, summarizes the life of Jesus.
It provides a smooth transition from Luke's earlier gospel
to this second work of reporting the "good news"
to be found in the activities of Jesus' apostles.*

Introduction to the second reading: *(Ephesians 1 : 17 – 23)*

*leader: The brief reference to the ascending of Jesus in the Letter,
functions as part of the author's general theme of praise
about God's actions in Christ, on behalf of humankind.*

Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Go and teach all people my Gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(Mark 16 : 15 – 20)*

*leader: Mark's gospel underlines the lack of faith and understanding of the
disciples. What is implied by the ending of the Gospel at verse 8, is that
the sequel of the gospel must be found in the practise of the reader/
listener. In the same sense, all the gospels are open to sequels;
just as Luke's Gospel sequel is found in the account of the Book of Acts of
the Apostles.*

Homily Notes *(presider)*

- *The Ascension has always been a part of the joyful celebration of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, but was singled out for commemoration on the fortieth day (see Acts 1:3) toward the end of the 4th century. The feast develops the glory of the resurrection by acclaiming the exaltation of Christ as Lord of heaven and earth. It serves to prepare the Church, toward the end of the season of Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.*
- *The Ascension Day liturgy is our point of entry into new sources of imagery by which we believe in order to understand our faith, worship,*

and practice in the world. The actions of God in the Eucharistic Liturgy, are the key to an enriched understanding of our world as the place where God reigns, of neighbour-love as the bond of the community of disciples, and our new selves as Jesus' disciples!

- *We are missioned to world-building. Our task is to express, transform, and extend our world, in accord with the pattern revealed in the mystery of God. Jesus didn't talk about a God in heaven, who is remote from would-be disciples. He talks about a God who is love, and seeing God is a part of what we do! It is to see love. The God that Jesus presents is not in heaven, but in what people are doing! If we want to look for God this is where we must search - God in the liberating practice of disciples!*
- *The Word of God has invited us, as steward-partners of creation, to join God's mission in the world! Our oikonomia or stewardship, is closely linked to koinonia or partnership/communion! The community of Jesus disciples are sent to extend God's work of creating a more humane society. May the creative love, the liberating grace, and the empowering partnering of the Triune God be with us always!*

Creed / Statement of Faith

Intercessions – Ascension Week [Sun 12th – Sat 18th May 2024]*invitation to pray:*

leader: *Friends in Christ, we remember Jesus' promise to be with us always: let us pray with confidence to God-with-us; for our world and its needs:*

1: *For the Christian community. May the Word of the Ascending Jesus, continue to instruct those responsible for the formation of the young:*
- (pause) - *Spirit of Wisdom, hear us:* all: **Spirit of Wisdom, hear us.**

2: *For our world. May the vision of the Ascending Jesus, enable disciples to discern the future with confidence that we may treat the Earth with reverence and respect as the place where Your glory always endures:*
- (pause) - *Spirit of Insight, hear us:* all: **Spirit of Insight, hear us.**

3: *For those who spread the gospel. May the empowering Spirit promised by the Ascending Jesus, be with us as we continue to proclaim "the good news":* - (pause) - *Spirit of Empowerment, hear us:*
all: **Spirit of Empowerment, hear us.**

4: *For people of different faiths – that their desire to love God and do what is right will bring people of differing faith traditions into greater communion and understanding:* - (pause) – *Spirit of Unity, hear us:*
all: **Spirit of Unity, hear us.**

5: *For the sick: we pray for:*

Mangawhai: **Petronella ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Pamela Downes, Petronella Brom, Lorna Bockock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Margaret Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters,**

Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Bob & Julia Bland, Peter McHugh, Adolph Layec, Jeremy McCroskerey, . . .**

Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, . . .**

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:
- (pause) - *Spirit of Well-being, hear us:*

all: **Spirit of Well-being, hear us.**

6: *For those who have died in Gaza and the Ukraine::*
For Zoila Crisostomo (Nanette Matheson's mother in the Philippines), Margaret Haverfield (Mangawhai), Fonz Nieuwendijk, (Awanui), Bill O'Brien (Howick) . . .who have died recently; And for those whose anniversaries occur about now: Jamie Lee Cave, Marie Foy, Susan Brydon Number them among your saints: - (pause) - *Spirit of Power, hear us:*
all: **Spirit of Power, hear us.**

Concluding Prayer:

leader: *Come, O powerful Spirit of God, enlighten our hearts, with the love that is steadfast and limitless, in Jesus Christ. We ask this in his name:*

all: **Amen**

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) We offer You this sacrifice, Lord,
on the feast of Your Son's Ascension
begging that through this holy exchange of gifts
we may rise with him to the joys of heaven.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord:*

*all: **Amen***

Preface

presider: The Lord be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing Your glory, Lord;
but we praise You with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.
In his risen body he plainly showed himself to his disciples
and was taken up to heaven in their sight
to claim for us a share in his divinity.
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II**Memorial Acclamation**

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

*leader: With trust in God, who nourishes us in the hour of need,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,***

now and for ever. Amen.

Sign of Peace

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:

Lamb of God

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

either

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

or

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will never die.
This is the cup of eternal life;
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Almighty and eternal God,
You have entrusted to us here on Earth
the mysteries that foreshadow heaven.
Draw our gaze upward*

*where Christ, who shares our human nature,
sits in glory at Your right hand
and lives and reigns with You, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*leader: We are sent;
in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ;
in the love of God;
in the communion of the holy Spirit;
to extend God's creating, redeeming
and empowering work in our world;
to be honest witnesses to Jesus Christ
and that through him we may continue,
to worship in Spirit and Truth,
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace.

*all: **Thanks be to God.***