

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Introductory Rites

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? [GR adds: alleluia] The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia. (Acts 1:11)[GR adds: alleluia, alleluia and verse 1 of Psalm 47 (46V): All nations, clap your hands; shout unto God with a voice of joy.]

Entrance Antiphon I (GS)

Acts 1:11

VII a

Gal - i - le - an men and wo - men,* why do
you stand look - ing up to heav - en? This Je -
sus, who has been tak - en up from you in - to heav - en
will come in the same way, al - le - lu - ia.

Entrance Antiphon II (GS)

Cf. Acts 1:11

VII a

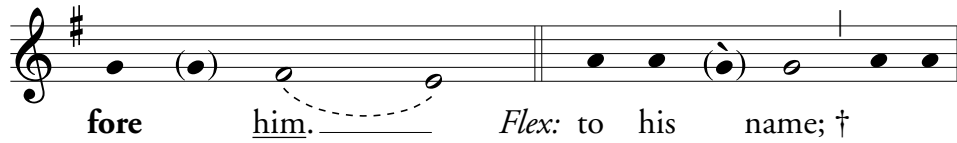
Je - sus has been tak - en up to heav -
en* and he will come a - gain, al - le - lu - ia.

Psalm 68 (67V)

1, 4ab, 5-6a, 7-8, 18ab, 19, 33

V 1

Let God rise up, let his en - e - mies be
scat - tered;* let those who hate him flee be -



- fore him. *Flex:* to his name; †
- 4ab 2 *Sing to* God, sing praises to his name; †
lift up a song to him who **rides** upon the clouds— *
his **name** is **the LORD**.
- 5 3 *Fath-er* of orphans and protector of widows †
is God in his holy **habitation**. *
- 6a God gives the desolate a **home** to **live in**;
- 7 4 *O God*, when you went out **before** your **people**, *
when you **marched** through the **wilderness**.
- 8 5 *the earth* quaked, the heavens poured down rain †
at the presence of God, the **God** of **Sinai**, *
at the presence of God, the **God** of **Israel**.
- 18ab 6 *You ascended* the high mount, †
leading **captives in** your train *
and **receiving** gifts **from** people.
- 19 7 *Bless-ed* be the Lord, who **daily bears** us up; *
God is our **salvation**.
- 23 8 *O rider* in the heavens, the **ancient heavens**; *
listen, he sends out his **voice**, his **mighty voice**.

The Gloria is sung or said.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray

[that the risen Christ will lead us to eternal life]

Pause for silent prayer

God our Father, make us joyful in the ascension of your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow him into the new creation, for his ascension is our glory and our hope. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. R!. Amen.

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray

[on this day of Ascension as we watch and wait for Jesus' return]

Pause for silent prayer

Father in heaven, our minds were prepared for the coming of your kingdom when you took Christ beyond our sight so that we might seek him in his glory. May we follow where he has led and find our hope in his glory, for he is Lord for ever. R!. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING [ABC]

Acts of the Apostles 1: 1- 11

A reading from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
or R. Alleluia.**

**All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, for the
LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth.**

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
or R. Alleluia.**

**God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.**

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
or R. Alleluia.**

**For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the
nations, God sits upon his holy throne.**

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
or R. Alleluia.**

(GS) Alleluia Psalm I

Psalm 47 (46V)

1-9

♩1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *

shout to God with loud songs of joy.

℞ Alleluia, alleluia.

♩2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, *

a great king over all the earth.

℞ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♩3 He subdued peoples under us, *

and nations under our feet.

℞ Alleluia, alleluia.

♩4 He chose our heritage for us, *

the pride of Ja - cob whom he loves.

R Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Y5 God has gone up with a shout, *

the LORD with the sound of a trum - pet.

R Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Y6 Sing prais - es to God, sing prais - es; *

sing prais - es to our King, sing prais - es.

R Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Y7 For God is the king of all the earth; †

sing prais - es with a psalm.

R Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V8 God is king — o - ver the na - tions; *
 God sits — on his — ho - ly throne. —
 R Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V9 The princ - es of the peo - ples gath - er *
 as the peo - ple of the God of A - bra - ham.
 R Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V10 For the shields — of the earth be - long — to God; *
 he — is high - ly ex - alt - ed. —
 R Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:17–23 [required in Year A; optional in Years B and C]

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might: which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every

principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

OR [in Year B]

Ephesians 4:1–13

Brothers and sisters, I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it says: *He ascended on high and took prisoners captive, he gave gifts to men.* What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended into the lower regions of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ.

OR [In Year C]

Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23

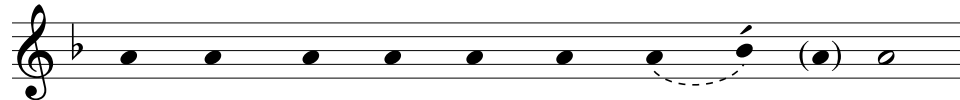
Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf. Not that he might offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters each year into the sanctuary with blood that is not his own; if that were so, he would have had to suffer repeatedly from the foundation of the world. But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice. Just as it is appointed that men and women die once, and after this the judgment, so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have “a great priest over the house of God,” let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

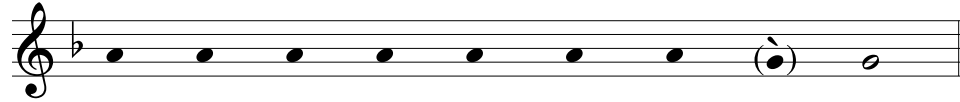
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28:19a, 20b

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world.



1 Who shall as - cend the hill of the LORD? *



And who shall stand in his ho - ly place?



R Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

- 2 Lift up your heads, O gates! ’
and be lifted up, O ancient doors! *
that the King of glory may **come** in.
- 3 Who is the King of glory? ’
The LORD, strong and mighty, *
the LORD, mighty in **battle**.
- 4 Lift up your heads, O gates! ’
and be lifted up, O ancient doors! *
that the King of glory may **come** in.
- 5 Who is this King of glory? ’
The LORD of hosts, *
he is the King of **glòry**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power 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 behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

GOSPEL

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying

signs.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

Preparation of the Gifts Antiphon (GS)

Psalm 47 (46V):5

IV A

God — mounts his throne — * to shouts — of — joy;
a blare of trum-pets for the Lord, — al - le - lu - ia.

Psalm 47 (46V)

1-2, 6, 8

or
1 Clap your *hands*, — all you **peo** - ples; *
shout to God with loud **songs** of joy.

- 2 For the **LORD**, the Most High, is **awesome**, *
a great *king over all* the earth.
- 3 Sing *praises* to God, sing **praises**; *
sing praises to our King, sing **praises**.
- 4 God is king over the **nations**; *
God sits on his **holy** throne.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Pray, brethren . . .

Lord, receive our offering as we celebrate the ascension of Christ your Son. May his gifts help us rise with him to the joys of heaven, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

ASCENSION I

This preface is said on the Ascension, and it may also be said (or an Easter preface) in all Masses which have no preface of their own, from the Ascension to the Saturday before Pentecost inclusive.

Priest: **The Lord be with you.**

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: **Lift up your hearts.**

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

Priest: **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

People: **it is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

(Today) the Lord Jesus, the king of glory, the conqueror of sin and death, ascended to heaven while the angels sang his praises.

Christ, the mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of all, has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope. Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church; where he has gone, we hope to follow.

The joy of the resurrection and ascension renews the whole world, while the choirs of heaven sing forever to your glory:

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.

ASCENSION II

This preface is said on the Ascension, and it may also be said (or an Easter preface) in all Masses which have no preface of their own, from the Ascension to the Saturday before Pentecost inclusive.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 divine life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

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.

When Eucharistic Prayer I is used, the special form of *In union with the whole*

Church is said.

**In union with the whole Church
we celebrate that day
when your only Son, our Lord,
took his place with you
and raised our frail human nature to glory.
We honor Mary,
the ever-virgin mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and God.**

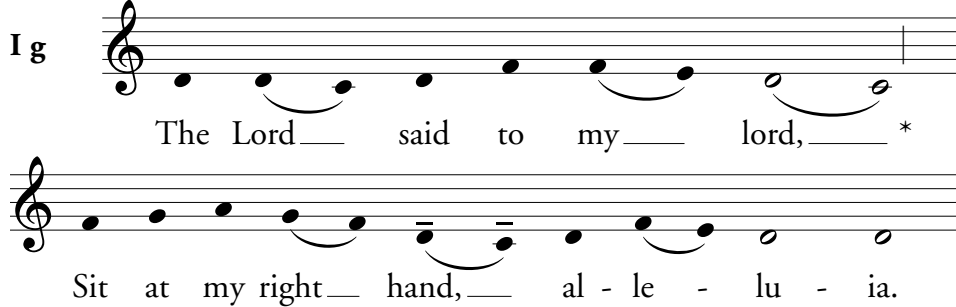
Communion Rite

I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world, alleluia. (Matthew 28:20)

Communion Antiphon (GS)

Psalm 10 (109V):1a

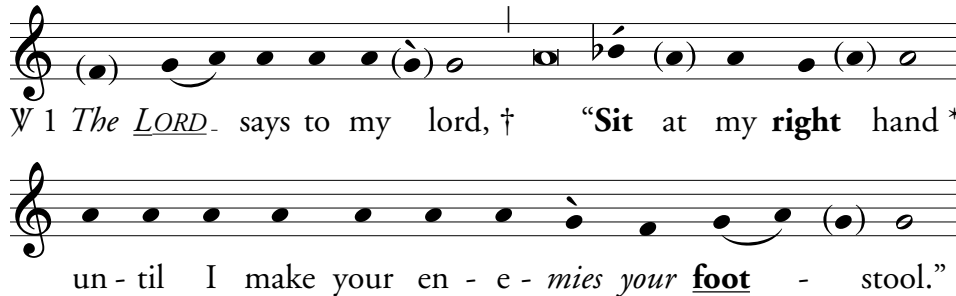
I g



The Lord said to my lord, *
Sit at my right hand, alleluia.

Psalm 110 (109V)

1-5, 7



† **Sit** at my **right** hand *
un - til I make your en - e - mies your **foot** - stool."

- 2 *The LORD* sends out from Zion your **mighty** scepter. *
Rule in the *midst* of **your** foes.
- 3 *Your people* will **offer** themselves **willingly** *
on the day you lead your forces on the *holy* **mountains**.
- 4 *From* the **womb** of the **morning**, *
like dew, your *youth* will **come** to you.
- 5 *The LORD* has sworn and will not change his mind, †
"You are a **priest** forever *
according to the order of *Melchizedek*."
- 6 *The Lord* is **at** your **right** hand; *
he will shatter kings on the *day* of **his** wrath.
- 7 *He* will drink from the **stream** by **the** path; *
therefore he will *lift up* **his** head.

GR, Year A: All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth, alleluia; go therefore and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, alleluia, alleluia. (*Matthew 28:18–19*) with *Psalm 78 (77V), 1, 3a, 23, 24, 25, 27.*

GR, Year B: These signs will accompany those who believe: they will cast out demons, and when they lay their hands upon the sick, these will recover, alleluia. (*Mark 16:17–18*) with *Psalm 34 (33V).*

GR, Year C: Sing to the Lord who has ascended the highest heavens towards the East, alleluia. (*Psalm 68 [67V]:33–34*) with *Psalm 68 [67V], 2, 5abc, 5d–6, 19, 20, 21, 25, 29, 30, 33–34.*

A period of silence may be observed after communion, or a psalm or song of praise may be sung.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer, if this has not preceded.

Father, in this eucharist, we touch the divine life you give to the world. Help us to follow Christ with love to eternal life where he is Lord for ever and ever.

SOLEMN BLESSING OR PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

The following may replace the simple blessing.

After the greeting, the deacon (or in his absence, the priest) gives the invitation in these or similar words: **Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.**

Then the priest extends his hands over the people while he sings or says:

May almighty God bless you on this day when his only Son ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you. R. Amen.

After his resurrection, Christ was seen by his disciples. When he appears as judge may you be pleasing for ever in his sight. R. Amen.

You believe that Jesus has taken his seat in majesty at the right hand of the Father. May you have the joy of experiencing that he is also with you to the end of time, according to his promise. R. Amen.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.