



24th May 2020
7th Sunday Of Easter
Year A

LITURGY
FOR
THE TIME
IN
LOCKDOWN

GATHERING WORDS:

Hear the sounds of the singing of cities.
They celebrate their Creator
and lift their hearts in hope,
as the birds rise from among the towers
to greet the dawn.

See the sun light up the world
and the trees on the mountains
swaying in delight
as the lightning sparks excitement
and the world bows before its Maker.
The heavens proclaim God's righteousness
and we are among the people in this day
who behold God's glory.
Let us worship God!

SONG: *Gather Us In* by Marty Haugen

[YouTube](#)

CANDLE LIGHTING: *(optional)*

(The Christ candle is lit)

The blessing of God
The shalom of God
The light of God
be among us and between us, now and always.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Look up and see the heavens open
and a glimpse of the glorious mystery of God:
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Let us praise the God of universal life.

Look down and touch the earth beneath us,
which holds the footsteps of the Christ -
the marks of everlasting grace
and the costly journey of love.

Let us praise the God of universal life.

ASCENSION DAY PRAYER

O Jesus, we remember your presence with us,
preaching on the hillsides,
calling disciples to follow you,
healing those who were sick,
reaching out to the marginalized,
feeding thousands with spare bread,
and suffering for the sake of love.
How we wish you could be with us forever...

(Provide a few moments of silence.)

Then we hear a voice asking:
Why are you looking towards the heavens?
We look out and see your presence
whenever a word of truth is spoken,
whenever someone chooses to follow in your way,
whenever a sick one is made whole,
and one who is marginalized comes into the circle,
whenever one receives compassion
and true justice is done,
and another soul suffers for the sake of love.
You are among us
and we will live as your people. Amen.

SONG: *Hope and Light*

Tune 'To God be the Glory'.

1 The story of Jesus brings light to each one;
Excites and inspires us by what he has done;
In Jesus the battle with darkness is won;
'The Light of the World' can transform everyone.
Hope abounds; light surrounds;
So our life overflows;
Hope abounds; light surrounds
When our love blooms and grows;
The sacred within us compels us to strive;
With Jesus we flourish; in God we're alive.

2 When darkness surrounds us we look for the light
That points the way forward and out of the night;
We still have to struggle with all of our might
To stop fears prevailing and put them to flight.
Light empowers; hope is ours
If we give it a chance;
Light empowers; hope is ours
When we join in the dance.
With God as our partner and with a friend's care
We keep up the rhythm; dispel our despair.

3 Another beginning; life beckons once more;
And hope still arises; it bids us explore,
With courage and boldness to open each door;
With God as our future we need not withdraw.
Hope ignites; light invites
Us to take the right course;
Hope ignites; light invites
Us to look to its source;
And looking to Jesus, such light fills our soul;
With Jesus we flourish; in God we are whole.

G Stuart



Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:
a light to our path.



THE LESSON: *Acts 1:1-11*

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.”

THE GOSPEL: *Luke 24:44-53*

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



Lord, may your word live in us:
and bear much fruit to your glory.



FAITH LITANY

When the space is empty,
love fills the gap.
When the Saviour is gone,
the story continues.
When the wind howls,
we can hear God's voice.
When the night is long,
dawn will come.
When the way becomes lonely,
Christ's presence calls.
When the future is unknown,
the Spirit is waiting.
When the mountain is empty,
the journey continues.
When the Messiah is ascended,
the community becomes the body of Christ. Amen.

SONG: *You Are Mine* *David Haas*
[YouTube](#)



*A Contemporary Reflection
Can Be Found On
The Anglican Church Mallorca Website*



[Anglican Church Palma](#)

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**The sky does it simply, naturally day by day by day
the sun does it joyfully like someone in love
like a runner on the starting-line
the sky, the sun, they just can't help themselves
no loud voices, no grand speeches
but everyone sees,
and is happy with them.**

**Make us like that, Gracious God,
so our faith is not in our words but in our lives,
not in what we say but in who we are,
passing on your love like an infectious laugh:
not worried, not threatening,
just shining
like the sun, like a starry night,
like a lamp on a stand,
light for life – your light for our lives.**

Adapt. K Galloway

SONG: "ASCENSION HYMN"

*Tune: 'Kingsfold', 86 86D
"I heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

All heaven sighed as joy was shed,
and love would soon be free,
not bound to just one place and time,
yes, this would be the key:
beyond the cross, beyond the grave,
the Christ would rise again,
not just to life to greet his friends,
but on beyond earth's pain.

Disciples waited on that hill
as Christ was lost to sight,
then time would test their faithfulness,
there was no shining light;
for as they gazed, and as they looked,
it did not seem so clear;
some doubted what they saw and felt,
and some were filled with fear.

Uncertainty would rule their lives,
within this hollow time.
The world went on insensible
to faith's forgotten rhyme.
Then in a room behind locked doors,
the Spirit came with fire,
and each disciple found a voice
to challenge and inspire.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, whose life in Christ was a prayer for us
from beginning to end,
share in our life of this day
with the wonder of your love,
the passion of your justice
and the gifts of your peace.
The whole earth waits for you.
Come, gracious Jesus.

**Come and be part of our praying,
for you know our life so well.**

You know its every pain and problem,
its every fear and struggle.
Even in your church, we wait for you.
Come, gracious Jesus.

**Come and be part of our praying,
for you know our life so well.**

Then before you,
we remember particular people we have named
who need you with them
in this part of their journey.
Bring to them healing and wholeness
in the face of difficult times:

The people pray

Come, gracious Jesus.

**Come and be part of our praying,
for you know our life so well.**

Make our lives the enacting of our praying, O God.
Build our faith so that we may dare to pray
in your Spirit and in truth,
for we long to be your brave people.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER.

Let us pray in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer:

**God, lover of us all, most holy one.
Help us to respond to you.
To create what you want for us here on earth.**

**Give us today enough for our needs.
Forgive our weak and deliberate offences,
just as we must forgive others when they hurt us.**

**Help us to resist evil and to do what is good.
For we are yours, endowed with your power
to make our world whole. Amen.**

(Lala Winkley)

SONG: Christ Be Our Light Bernadette Farrell
[YouTube](#)

A MEDITATION ON THE EUCHARIST
[YouTube](#)

SENDING OUT:

Go in faith to carry our prayers into every corner of life.
Go in peace, because Jesus Christ has come
and walks in courage before us.

The Christ Candle is extinguished

We shall go out in hope:
the body of Christ alive in the world.
We shall go out in love:
the body of Christ alive in the world.
We shall go out in truth:
the body of Christ alive in the world.
We shall go out in life:
the body of Christ alive in the world.
We shall go out in God's presence:
the body of Christ alive in the world.
We shall go out searching:
the body of Christ alive in the world.

And may every breath of life be a prayer of hope,
every step be a moving forward in the adventure of faith,
and may God the centre of the universe,
Christ the centre of the human journey
and God the free Spirit be with us all.

SONG: *You Shall Go Out With Joy*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unWnWSgoSt0>