



St Matthew Croydon
Ascension Day Service

Welcome to St Matthew Croydon.

If you are new to our church, please make yourself known at the end of the service to one of the wardens or a member of the clergy.

We meet after church to share tea and coffee and enjoy learning more about each other.

We do have a hearing loop – please switch your hearing aids to the ‘T’ position if you need this help.

Toilets are available, and the warden will happily direct you should you need it.

Fire exits are clearly marked and, in the event of any incident, you will be calmly directed to the correct exit.

Please turn your mobile phone off – and if you can’t do that, please ensure that the sound is off.

Our services are often livestreamed – if you have any queries about this, please speak to the warden at the back of the church.

The Gathering

Hymn

The president says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Introduction

The president introduces the service using these

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we
have been celebrating with joyful hearts the
resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting
from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and

death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

The Ascension Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

At the end the reader says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A minister says; Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

The Peruvian Gloria

Verse 1

Glory to God, glory to
God, Glory to the
Father!

***Glory to God, glory to
God, glory to the
Father!***

Chorus

To God be glory
forever!

**To God be glory
forever!**

Alleluia, Amen!

Alleluia, Amen!

Alleluia, A men!

Verse 2

Glory to God, glory to
God, glory to Christ
Jesus!

***Glory to God, glory to
God, glory to Christ
Jesus!***

Chorus

Verse 3

Glory to God, glory to
God, glory to the
Spirit!

***Glory to God, glory to
God, glory to the
Spirit!***

Chorus

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord
will lead us to eternal life...

Risen Christ,

you have raised our human nature
to the throne of heaven:

help us to seek and serve you,

that we may join you at the Father's side,

where you reign with the Spirit in glory,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Gospel Reading

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the
age.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you **and also with you**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,
seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle
rule ...

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your
brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow...

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and
resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels those who have
died trusting your promises ...

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the
universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work
in your service ...

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole
created order to worship at your feet; for you are
alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to
you.

If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the
Father'. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

Prayer of Preparation

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus
Christ the King of glory.
Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our
human race.

Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.
By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to
life eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure
hope
that where he is we may also be. Therefore the
universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of
angels we sing for ever to your 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.**
Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that
comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as
your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope he touched
untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end
they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he
came to table with his friends to celebrate the
freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray...

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.
We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**Blessed are those who are called to the supper of
the Lamb. Alleluia.**

*During the distribution **hymns** and **anthems** may be
sung.*

The Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual
blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

Hymn

Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12,13a,14)
Then the disciples 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. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*No responses are used at the end of the reading.
Silence is kept.*

Responsory

As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

Silence may be kept or a reflective hymn may be sung.

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every
name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

Amen.

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
+ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

A minister says

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The ministers and people depart.

Copyright acknowledgement:

Post Communion (Ascension Day) © 1985 Mowbray, a Cassell

Imprint: After Communion compiled by C L Macdonnell

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989

National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Prayers of Intercession (Resurrection, Ascension)

© Michael Perham (Adapted)

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The

Archbishops' Council 2000

Greeting (General) © The Archbishops' Council 2002

Collect (Ascension Day, Additional) © The Archbishops' Council

2004

Copyright © 2012, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow,

G2 3DH, Scotland. wrg@iona.org.uk; www.wrg.co.uk.

Reproduced by permission.

Words reproduced under CCL No 5686

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, Licence

#A-739265 All rights reserved