**The Emmanuel Group of Churches**

**Holy Communion for Ascension Day**

God has gone up with a shout,

**the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.** *Psalm 47.5*

***The Greeting***

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

**and also with you.**

***Introduction***

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.

Bur first, seeing we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

***Confession***

O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:

holy is your name, Lord God almighty.

In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,

and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***The Collect***

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.**

***First Reading*** *Psalm 24*

1. The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
2. for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.
3. Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
4. The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.
5. They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Saviour.
6. Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.
7. Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
8. Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
9. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
10. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty - he is the King of glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Reading*** *Luke 24.44-end*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1. Jesus said to the disciples, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”
2. Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.
3. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
4. and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
5. You are witnesses of these things.
6. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
7. When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.
8. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.
9. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.
10. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Reflection***

***Music to listen to*** *Hallelujah Chorus*

***What we believe***

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

**for by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

**for with his blood, he purchased us for God,**

**from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Even so come, Lord Jesus!**

**Amen.** *cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17, 20*

***Prayers***

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 Communion***

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

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 always right to give you thanks, God our Creator,

loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary’s child.

He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins;

he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,

and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

**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, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.

He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God’s unfailing love.

Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,

and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit,

that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ’s body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another,

work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus,

as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,

with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, 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***

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.

***Giving of Communion***

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.**

***Bread and wine or juice are shared***

***Prayer after Communion***

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.**

***Reading*** *Acts 1.12,13a,14*

1. Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.
2. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying.
3. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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.**

***The Blessing***

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,

bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

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***

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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