



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Ascension Day Service

OPENING HYMN: *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!**

**2 There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!  
he hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia!  
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!**

**3 See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!  
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!  
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!  
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!**

God has gone up with a shout.

**The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
Acts 1.1-11

*After the reading...* Alleluia. Christ is risen:  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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 GLORIA *Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music*

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***  
**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**  
**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**  
**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***  
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**  
**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest***  
**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**  
**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**  
**in the glory of God the Father.**

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

## THE COLLECT

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

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1.15-end

*After the reading...* This is the word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN *Noel and Tricia Richards ©1987 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

**1. All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord;  
who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?  
Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee, and worship Him alone.**

**2. I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain to reconcile man to God.  
For ever You will be the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee, and worship You alone.**

**3. All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord;  
who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?  
Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee, and worship Him alone.**

## THE GOSPEL

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 24.44-end

*At the end of the reading:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

THE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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, G  
od 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;  
he 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.**

#### THE 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.

*RESPONSE:* Lord, hear us – **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers,  
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### THE PEACE *Please stand*

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.

#### OFFERTORY HYMN *G.H. Bourne (1840-1925)*

**1 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first-begotten from the dead,  
Thou alone, our strong Defender,  
liftest up Thy people's head.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Jesu, true and living Bread!**

**2 Prince of Life, for us Thou livest,  
by Thy body souls are healed;  
Prince of Peace, Thy peace Thou livest,  
by Thy blood is pardon sealed.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Word of God in flesh revealed.**

**3 Paschal Lamb! Thine off'ring finished  
once for all when Thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall forevermore remain.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.**

**4 Great High Priest of our profession,  
through the oil Thou ent'redst in;  
by Thy mighty intercession  
grace and mercy Thou dost win.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Only sacrifice for sin.**

**5 Life-imparting heav'nly Manna,  
stricken Rock, with streaming side,  
heav'n and earth with loud hosanna  
worship Thee, the Lamb who died.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

#### THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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 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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

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

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

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## GIVING OF COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*All those baptised into the Christian faith are welcome to come forward for communion.  
Alternatively, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

## COMMUNION HYMN *Martin J. Nystrom © 1984 Restoration Music Ltd*

**1. As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.***

**2. I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
and the apple of my eye.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.***

**3. You're my friend and you are my brother,  
even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other,  
so much more than anything.**

*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.**

#### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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.**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

CLOSING HYMN ©Michael Saward/Jubilate Hymns

**1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King.  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:**

***Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name!***

**2. Suffering Servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated;  
sinners justified.**

**3. Priestly King, enthroned forever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love.**

**4. So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song.**

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*Celebrating God's love in the heart of the community*

Website: [www.stalbansgossopsgreen.co.uk](http://www.stalbansgossopsgreen.co.uk)

Facebook: St Alban's Gossops Green and Bewbush

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**REGULAR SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S - *everyone is very welcome***

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

**WEEKDAY SERVICES:**

**Thursday 9:30am** Said Eucharist

*Followed by Community Morning 10am-12pm*

**Morning Prayer 9am** Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

**Saturday Prayers 9.30am** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month

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