



## Liturgy of the Word for Individuals, Families & Communities

Ascension Sunday Year C, May 29<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

*Prepare a prayer focus and light a candle.*

**SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa...**

**READER:** Kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou -- The Lord be with you

**ALL:** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki -- And also with you

**READER:**

Tēnā koutou katoa, welcome everybody. Today is the feast of the Ascension. Pope Francis said, 'Jesus' ascension into heaven does not mean he is absent. Instead, it tells us that he is alive among us – we are never alone.' We gather now in each other's company, and in the company of Jesus who walks with us, to give thanks for all we have been given. Let's sing.

**Children – The Ascension Song**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf8Cl41Hzzo>

**Youth / Adult – A hymn of glory let us sing**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs7C5U24EgY>

**READER:** Jesus, you ascended to the Father, and yet you are living among us still. You open to us the gift of everlasting life. Make us your instruments of love and peace in all we do.

You forgive us our sins

Lord have mercy

**(All)** Lord have mercy

You send your spirit upon us

Christ have mercy

**(All)** Christ have mercy

You are with us always, unto the end of the world

Lord have mercy

**All)** Lord have mercy

**OPENING PRAYER:** Ka inoi tatou – let us pray. In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

God of endless mercy, your son Jesus ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on. Grant that we may be worthy for him to dwell with us always. Through Jesus our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray. **ALL: Amen**

**FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the book of Acts

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."

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

**ALL:** Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence** – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word find a place to rest inside us.*

**Discuss** - 'Why are you standing looking at the sky?' they asked. Where instead ought we be looking?

**PSALM:** *Psalm 47* God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

*Children* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKQgw44EAdI>

*Youth* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk4f1rq4JMI>

*Adults* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xadev-6e1kA> OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNeLtEDbggU>

**Second Reading** Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

A reading from the book of Hebrews

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.

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

**ALL:** Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence** - *Follow the reading with quiet thinking time.*

**Discussion starter** – 'Let us approach ... in absolute trust.' What is being asked of us?

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 24: 46-53*

**Reader** Kia noho te Ariki - The Lord be with you

**All** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki – And also with you

**Reader** A reading from the Gospel of Luke

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,



We ask you, Lord, to hear our prayer. **Amen.**

**READER:** Today is also World Communications Day. Two prayers we might want to pray follow.  
(Resources: [World Communications Day Pope Francis](#) [Catholic News WCD Theme](#) [Tips & Resources](#) )

### Prayer for Journalists

Almighty God, strengthen and direct, we pray,  
the will of all whose work it is to write what many read,  
and to speak where many listen.  
May they be bold to confront evil and injustice.  
May they be understanding and compassionate of human weakness;  
rejecting alike the half-truth which deceives, and the slanted word which corrupts.  
May the power which is theirs, for good or ill,  
always be used with honesty and courage, with respect and integrity,  
so that, when all has been written, said and done,  
they may, unashamed, meet You face to face,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

### Social Media Prayer Blessing *by Meredith Gould*

*Based on the prayer by St Teresa of Avila* - Christ has no body now but yours.

Christ has no online presence but yours  
No blog, no Facebook page but yours,  
Yours are the tweets through which love touches the world,  
Yours are the posts through which the Gospel is shared,  
Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.  
Christ has no online presence but yours,  
No blog, no Facebook page but yours. **Amen.**

**READER:** Let's pray the Lord's prayer together. The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo Māori.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU1GNEVohYY>

*Or the Lord's Prayer in English.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

### READER: Blessing

May you listen with gracious attentiveness.  
May the words you speak be framed with patience and kindness.  
May you fingers articulate love, forgiveness and peace each time you text, type,  
FaceBook or communicate across the internet, by any means.  
And may the internet be one more way the wonderful God of endless love reaches to you  
and blesses you across time and space.

**All: Amen**

**READER:** Thank you for your participation in this Liturgy of the Word, thank you for your kindness and presence. We rejoice always, because we do not walk alone. God, who abounds in merciful love, is with us and in us and stays with us. May we be messengers of God's love, peace and forgiveness in the world today. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

Let us go in peace, loving and serving God in all we do.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Song** Christ has no Body now but yours <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUbxOli4Hcl>