

The image features a deep blue background speckled with white dots, resembling a starry night sky. Numerous thin, white, diagonal streaks radiate from the center, creating a sense of light or energy. In the center is a circular graphic composed of concentric, slightly irregular rings in a lighter blue shade. A bright white vertical line bisects the entire image, passing through the center of the circular graphic.

THY KINGDOM COME

¶ Gathering

Sydwell Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Sydwell Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Hymn

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;

The joy all of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know.

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him:
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Hebrews 2.10 Thomas Kelly

Ascension insight

Canon Nigel Ashworth



Collect for Today

Nigel Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth
with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
All **Amen.**

¶ Word and Prayer

The Reading from Acts – read by Durham Grigg

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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.'

Durham This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading *read by John Lacy*

John
All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.44-53

⁴⁴ Jesus said to the disciples, '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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

John
All

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

Canon Nigel Ashworth

Anthem

Choir of St Ann's

The choir have prepared Charles Wood's anthem to Christ 'O thou, the central orb'

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
pure beam of the Most High,
eternal light of this our wintry world,
thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith.
Hope soars above, above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
gilding our darksome heaven
with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre
round thee move,
as stars about thy throne, set in the height
of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
gives measur'd grace to each,
thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse
the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day,
in fellowship with thee,
transforming day to souls
while ere unclean,
now pure within, now pure within. Amen.

Harry Ramsden Bramley

Affirmation of Faith

Sydwell Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians 2,6-11

The Peace

Sydwell introduces the Peace and says

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace together.

Hearing from perspectives in Healthcare

Helen Lacy

Emily Dearden

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers are led by Roy Needham. This response is used

Roy Thy Kingdom come.
All **Thy will be done.**

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 thine is the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.

¶ Ending

Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our hearts would find assurance
in the promise of the Lord.

F W Faber

The Blessing

Sydwel The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you
to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Voluntary

Whilst the music is being played please get your coffees and come back to the screen so we can greet one another.