

*Mass from St Matthew's, Westminster
on the Seventh Sunday of Easter
24th May 2020*



✠ In the name of the Father
And of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Good morning everyone. It's an open air Mass today, and in the Gospel we'll hear how Jesus took His friends to the top of a hill and from there ascended back to Heaven. Suddenly the Apostles were looking up into a sky on that hill, just as I am in my garden. But that's fine. Because they knew that Jesus didn't rocket off into space – He only went as far as Heaven. And that fortunately is very close.

So remembering how close Heaven is, let us get ready for Mass by asking our Father in Heaven to forgive us our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to earth to save us from our sins

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you ascended into Heaven to pray for us to the Father

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you promised us the Holy Spirit, to be with us for ever

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
 Have mercy upon you, ✕ pardon and deliver you from all your
 sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring
 you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Demo of the Gloria

Gloria

Glory be to God the Father - *clap*

Glory be to God the Father - *clap*

Glory be to God the Son - *clap*

Glory be to God the Son - *clap*

Glory be to God the Spirit - *clap*

Glory be to God the Spirit - *clap*

God the Three - *3 claps*

God the Three - *3 claps*

And God the One - *clap!*

And God the One - *clap!*

Amen

Let us pray ...

God our Father, as we believe your Son, Jesus Christ,
 ascended into Heaven, grant that we too, in heart and mind,
 may also ascend and with Him continually dwell;
 who is alive and reigns with you, with the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

And now we're going to hear the account of Jesus' ascension,
read by Jesse

Pause for

Reading

All through Easter we sing Alleuia - whenever we can - so let's
hear an Alleluia sung by Susanna as we get ready to hear the
Gospel.

Pause for

Gospel Acclamation

The Lord be with you

And also with you

A + reading from the HOLY GOSPEL according to St Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

THE GOSPEL

This is the Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, O Christ

Pause for the

Homily

And now over to Westminster where Will is going to lead us in
our prayers

Intercessions

Heavenly Father, we love you though although we cannot see you.

We see you creation – help us to protect it.

We see people who are sad or hurt – help us to pray for them.

We see our family – help us to love one another.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Jesus our Brother, you loved us on earth and you love us still.

You pray for us in Heaven – help us to be constant in prayer.

You send us hope from Heaven – help us show your hope on earth.

You live forever in Heaven – help us to live with joy on earth.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

God the Spirit, you are the giver of life.

Through our prayers and worship. Give us your life.

In difficulty. Give us your life.

In the midst of sickness and sorrow. Give us your life.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, look with mercy on all those who have died, especially those who have died recently. Bring them and all the departed into the joys of Heaven.

And may our prayers be joined with those of the Virgin Mary and all the angels and saints as we say

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

The Peace

Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He left the disciples His peace. And Christians have been sharing Jesus' peace ever since.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Now I've got to get the altar ready for the second part of Mass and, while I do that, we've got a hymn for you. Fr Jeremy Fletcher of St John's Hampstead is ready with his guitar to sing with you.

So over to Hampstead...

Pause for

Hymn

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 always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us, and the whole universe,
and filled our 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.
and ascended into Heaven.
You sent 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 sing:

**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.

3 bells

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.

3 bells

The mystery of Faith:
Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ will come again.
Jesus 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 Sprit on us
That we may love one another,
And share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for His coming in glory.

For honour ad praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Sprit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray

**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
Forever and ever. Amen**

Break the bread

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us, and grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are they who are called to his supper.

**Lord I am not worthy that you should come under my roof
But speak the word only and my soul shall be healed**

Communion

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy
Sacrament. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I
beseech you to come spiritually into my heart, so that I may
unite myself wholly to you, now and forever. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
your Son Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us.
Bring us safely to our true home in Heaven,
to live with you for ever and ever
Amen

Paschal candle

All through Easter we have had a nice solid Paschal candle on our altar, to remind us that Jesus really came back from the dead in His Body. On Ascension Day we extinguish it, because Jesus has ascended into Heaven. We can't see Him anymore. As I do so, you'll see the flame goes out, but the smoke rises, just as Jesus did, to Heaven. And we wait - until next Sunday - for the gift Jesus promised us - the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

Let's meet again then.

And now, bow your heads, and pray for God's blessing...

May Almighty God bless you

+ The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen