

# A Holy Communion Service for Ascension Day



The Churches of Orsett, Bulphan and  
Horndon on the Hill

[hobnob.org.uk](http://hobnob.org.uk)

*We take safeguarding seriously; details are displayed in all our churches and on the website.*

**Welcome to the Churches of Orsett, Bulphan and Horndon on the Hill.**

*Thank you for joining us!*

*If this is your first time at one of our churches, it's great to have you with us. Do make yourself known to the minister or to one of those greeting at the door.*

*This is a service of Holy Communion for Ascension Day when we remember Jesus leaving this earth and returning to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers.*

*Please join in with the responses in bold, the prayers, hymns and songs as you feel comfortable.*

*The church is fitted with an induction loop system; those with hearing aids should use the 'T' setting.*

*We hope you enjoy the service.*



*If you would like to know more about the Christian faith or the life of our church community, please speak to Revd Sue or Revd Max. Or you can phone 01375 891254, visit us at [www.hobnob.org.uk](http://www.hobnob.org.uk), or find us on Facebook or Twitter: @HOBNOBChurches*

## **WELCOME**

### **GREETING**

*We stand.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
**the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, your son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence.  
Give us new hearts and constant wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **HYMN or SONG**

*FOLLOWING THE SINGING, WE SIT AND YOUNG PEOPLE MAY GO INTO THEIR  
OWN GROUP, AFTER A PRAYER.*

### **CONFESSION**

*We sit or kneel and spend a few moments bringing to mind anything for which  
we need to ask God's forgiveness.*

**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 Father forgive *us* by the death of his Son and strengthen *us* to live in  
the power of the Spirit all *our* days.  
**Amen.**

## **GLORY TO GOD**

*We stand to sing a song, offering glory to God.*

## **COLLECT**

*The following prayer, or another prayer for Ascension Day, is said.*

**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.**

## **READING/S and/or DRAMA**

*We sit.*

*After a reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN or SONG**

*We stand.*

## **GOSPEL READING/DRAMA**

*We usually remain standing, unless the Gospel is presented in drama form.*

*When the Gospel is announced, the reader may say,*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*And at the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **TALK**

*We sit.*

## **CREED**

*We stand to declare our belief in God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, by singing, or saying,*

**1. We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came.**

**2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.**

**3. We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above: saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.**

**So, by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.**

## **PRAYERS**

*We may sit or kneel as we pray for others.*

*One of the following responses, or an alternative, may be used.*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,

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

**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*We stand and the Peace is introduced with the following, or another suitable sentence.*

The risen Lord now reigns at God's right hand. He is the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We may exchange a sign of peace, by shaking hands with one another, or using sign language, and saying, 'Peace be with you.'*

## **HYMN or SONG**

*We stand and, during this hymn or song, the bread and wine are placed upon the table and a collection is taken for the work of the Church.*

*After the hymn or song, the collection is received and a prayer said.*

*We use the following Eucharistic Prayer or Eucharistic Prayer 1, on page 9.*

## **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A**

*We remain standing.*

*The minister will indicate whether we will use the responses in brackets.*

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 indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

**[To you be glory and praise for ever.]**

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

**[To you be glory and praise for ever.]**

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

**[To you be glory and praise for ever.]**

And now we give you thanks because, after his most glorious resurrection, he appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, thither we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you

by saying,

**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.**

*or by singing one of the following.*

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

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of his glory,  
the whole earth is full of his glory,  
the whole earth is full of his glory,  
holy is the Lord.**

*The congregation sits.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

**[To you be glory and praise for ever.]**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying, '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.'

**[To you be glory and praise for ever.]**

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**[To you be glory and praise for ever.]**

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*The service continues with the Lord's Prayer, on page 11.*



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 1**

*We remain standing.*

*The minister will indicate whether we will use the responses in brackets.*

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.

**[Holy, Holy, Holy.]**

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.

**[Holy, Holy, Holy.]**

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,

by saying,

**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.**

*or by singing one of the following.*

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

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of his glory,  
the whole earth is full of his glory,  
the whole earth is full of his glory,  
holy is the Lord.**

*The congregation sits.*

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.

**[Amen, Amen, Amen.]**

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.

**[Amen, Amen, Amen.]**

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

**[Amen, Amen, Amen.]**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*We sit or kneel.*

**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 might 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.**

*Everyone who is accustomed to receiving the bread and wine is welcome to take communion. If you do not wish to take communion, you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing, bringing this booklet with you.*

*If you are unable to come to the communion rail, and would like to receive the bread and wine, or a blessing, please notify one of the stewards and the minister will be very happy to come to you.*

*We have gluten-free wafers available. Please tell the minister, at the time of receiving communion, if you would like one of these.*

*As we share in communion, hymns or songs will be sung, the words for which can either be found in a hymn/song book, or will be printed elsewhere. Numbers, or details of where to find the words, are displayed on the hymn/song board. Please feel free to join in.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The following post-communion prayer, or another, may be used.*

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 MAY INVITE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.*

### **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

*We stand.*

Christ, our ascended King, pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among *you*, and remain with *you* and those *you* love, now and always.

**Amen.**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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



### **HYMN or SONG.**

*Please stay after the service for fellowship and refreshments*

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