

## Hymn

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### Sentence

God has raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named. Ephesians 1.20–21

### Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Two Great Commandments

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

### Prayer of the Day

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Acts 1:1-11

**1** In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

### Psalm 110

<sup>1</sup>The LORD says to my lord: "until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

<sup>2</sup>The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!"

<sup>3</sup>Your troops will be willing on your day of battle.

Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>5</sup>The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

<sup>6</sup>He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

<sup>7</sup>He will drink from a brook along the way, and so he will lift his head high.

## Revelation 22.12-22

<sup>12</sup> 'Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. <sup>14</sup> 'Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood. <sup>16</sup> 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.' <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

### Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

### Sermon

#### Nicene Creed

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, God 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

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.

#### Introduction to the prayers

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

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

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11.28  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

### Invitation to confession

Christ has entered heaven itself, there to appear before God on our behalf.

**We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood,**

**that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins to the God of grace.

### Confession

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Peace

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

Hymn 643 I want to walk as a child of the light

### OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

### Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise, glory and honour, be yours at all times, in every place, holy and loving Father, true and living God. We praise you that through your eternal Word you brought the universe into being and made us in your own image.

You have given us this earth to care for and delight in, and with its bounty you preserve our life.

We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race with the promises of a gracious covenant and called us to serve you in love and peace. Above all, we give you thanks for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ: born as one of us, he lived our common life and offered his life to you in perfect obedience and trust.

By his death he delivered us from sin, brought us new life, and reconciled us to you and to one another.

Therefore with angels and archangels, with apostles, and prophets, with holy men and women of every age, we proclaim your great and glorious name:

**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.**

Holy God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in obedience to our Saviour Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may be partakers of his body and blood, and be made one with him and with each other in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament, renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.

May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, give us courage for our pilgrimage, and bring us to the joys you promise.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Hymn

### **Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen .

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:**In the name of Christ. Amen**

## Pink Clouds

### Excerpts from Luke 22:66-24:53



#### The Scene Setting

A large amount of Luke's narrative of Jesus' Passion and Glory takes place under Pink Clouds. Though not mentioned, they were there, unnoticed, but powerful symbols. Proverbially Pink Clouds can be Awesome: either Awfully Pretty, or Very, very Frightening. Red sky at night is a delight, while red sky in morning is a warning to sailors and shepherds. We can use every day Pink Clouds to remind us of the most wonderful, awesome things.



#### Luke 23:50-56 Evening: The Death of Dayspring

Under Pink Clouds Jesus is buried by Joseph of Arimathea, who finally found his courage and sense of justice.

*Ponder:* the burial of Jesus, his was no wasted life. A life cut off too

soon.

His life was the most useful, productive life ever lived.

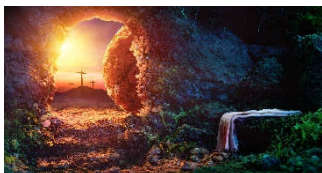
In life he achieved everything necessary to lay the foundations of the Kingdom of God.

His was the ultimate Heroic death, dying that many would live, not just to live out their days and finally die. But to live now and forever in an increasingly lively life. Freed from the shackles of Sin, Fear and Futility. Ultimately, perhaps ironically, being born through their death into a life too wonderful to be imagined.

*Introspection:* Be sorrowful that he had to die to secure our pardon and full forgiveness.

Be grateful that he was willing to do that for ordinary you.

Wonder that he gave up his life not because you deserved it, but that he loved you before you loved Him.



#### Luke 24:1-8 Dawn: Promise Vindicated

Under Pink Clouds, Jesus' Prison Guards are disempowered, Mourners are utterly confused, and Angels are bewildered that Jesus' friends seek the Living One among the dead.

*Ponder:* Resurrection is the proof that Jesus' Atoning Death has been accepted by His Father.

Life always prevails over death. The black stump sprouts, weeds grow in the cracks, critters thrive and scurry.

Jesus lives on, as does his promises and the certainty of the hope he offers.

*Introspection:* Do I live as though the Living One is still among the dead?

Do I live in the hope of Resurrection into New Life now and more perfectly, in the World to come?

Celebrate that He who lived and died lives again. His life is indestructible and He gives that same life to us.



Luke 24:25-35 Evening: Joyful Reunion

Under Pink Clouds Jesus' friends journey with a 'stranger' who seems to know so little, but yet so much. They finally recognised him in his breaking of bread, and hurried to tell their friends.

*Ponder:* The irony of a dawning realisation of truth under darkening evening skies.

That Jesus was known to them in a home at a meal table, not a temple or cathedral, but in the ordinary, common place things.

Jesus told them nothing new, but spoke from Scriptures which they had already known revealing things they had not realised before.

*Introspection:* Do I read the Bible for what it says, seeking 'The Word' in His word?

Remember to share your joy and insights in your faith family.

Scottish saying: There is a Minister in the Pulpit who knows how to Explain the Truth.

And a Granny in the Pew who knows how to Live the Truth.



Luke 24:50-53 Morning: Glory in the Highest

After the Pink Clouds Jesus and His friends go for a walk, and Jesus Ascends preceding them to His home to prepare their homes, and ours too. Ascending in brilliant clouds.

*Ponder:* The Ascension vindicates Jesus Divine being, the Veracity of his claims and his authority. He is Truly, Wholly and Holy God.

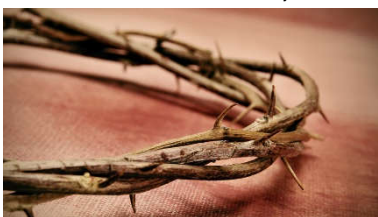
His departure to Glory opens the way for a fuller work of God in this world. Even post-Resurrection Jesus was limited in time and space as he was before.

Now His Holy Spirit is everywhere present at every time with everyone of God's people.

*Introspection:* The Kingdom of God excels human Kingdoms; they rise and are forgotten.

God's Kingdom Rises and Rises.

The Holy Spirit is one called alongside to help each one of us. To Assure and Reassure, Remind and Guide, and to Lead and Feed our souls.



Luke 22:66-70 Evening: Darkness Before the Dawn

Under Pink Clouds, on trial for His Life Jesus speaks not of a tragic end, but a glorious tomorrow.

*Ponder:* Both Priests and Pilate who assumed they had power over Jesus had no real power at all.

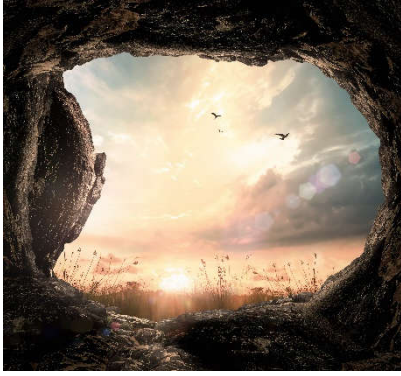
Jesus spoke of His future return as King of Kings as if it were already accomplished, such was His confidence in the Atoning work he would accomplish in the next few hours; and His Faith in the supreme Authority and Ability of His Father.

God's will shall be done in His time, in his way. Expect as much in faith, just like Jesus here at His trial.

*Introspection:* Even the darkest, most frightening night ends with a dawn and with it, the reawakening of Hope.

A Christian's life does not peter out into gloom, despair and a hole in the ground; but bursts forth into a new and more glorious life which will ever bloom and never fade.

Rest assured the purposes of God are as good as done, though we cannot see it, it is certainly so.



Go in Peace...

As you go, let the Pink Clouds inspire Awe and Wonder for what God has already Achieved and will most definitely Achieve in his Good Timing.