

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



The Ascension of the Lord (A)

18 May 2023

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

- Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heav'n. Alleluia!**
- Lo, the heav'n its Lord receives; Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves. Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls us all his own. Alleluia!**
- Still for us he intercedes; Alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, Alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, Alleluia!
he the first fruits of our race. Alleluia!**

Charles Wesley (1739)

Greeting & Penitential Act

Collect

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Acts 1: 1-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything
Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until

the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had
chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to
heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his
Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had
continued to appear to them and tell them about the
kingdom of God. When he had been at table with
them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to
wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he
had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John
baptised with water but you, not many days from now,
will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has
the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom
to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or
dates that the Father has decided by his own authority,
but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes
on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in
Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and
indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on,
and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still
staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white
were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you
men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven,
this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you
have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia-Psalm 46

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

- All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.
- God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise for God,
sing praise to our king.
- God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
he reigns on his holy throne.

Gospel

(Matthew 28: 16-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the
mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.
When they saw him they fell down before him, though
some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He
said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been
given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the
nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to
observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I
am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Risen Saviour! **R. Hear our prayer.**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Non vos relinquam – William Byrd

*I will not leave you comfortless. Alleluia.
I will come to you. Alleluia.
And your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia.*

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,
to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son:
grant, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ our Saviour (Dan Schutte)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Communion

Music: God is gone up – William Croft (1678-1727)

*God is gone up with a merry noise:
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God:
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth:
sing ye praises with understanding.*



Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God,
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that Christian hope may draw us onward
to where our nature is united with you.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

- Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood.**
- Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore?"**

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