



CELEBRATING AT HOME
ASCENSION SUNDAY

Called to be the living presence of God (Luke 24:46-53)



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Sign of the Cross

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

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of God's kingdom.

Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness.

Lord Jesus, you will come in glory
with salvation for your people.

Risen Christ,
you always meet us with warmth and love.
**Give us the hope and peace we need
to remain strong in our care of each other.**
Amen.

Scripture Reading *(Luke 24:46-53)*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer
and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his
name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be
preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father
has promised. Stay in the city then, until
you are clothed with the power from on high.'
Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of
Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.
Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them
and was carried up heaven.

They worshipped him and then went back to
Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the
Temple praising God.

Reflection - *Called to be the living presence of God*

The feast of the Ascension commemorates the
return of Jesus to the Father. Jesus leaves in body but
remains with us through the gift of the Spirit. We will
celebrate the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit in
next Sunday's feast of Pentecost.

The true meaning of our feast today is not found in
Jesus' leaving, but in the way he calls his disciples
back together, to re-form them as a new community
entrusted with the spread of the Gospel. Jesus sends
the disciples out to make disciples of all nations and
to teach them his way. But the disciples are not left to
do all that on their own. Jesus promises that he is with
them always.

Jesus has called the ragged, group of disciples,
scattered after his crucifixion, back to himself to
form them, fragile and doubtful as they are, into a
community for mission in the name of God. The task
of the historical Jesus is complete; the task of the
church as the living Body of Christ has just begun. It
is comforting to recognise that Jesus doesn't insist on
perfection before he calls us and entrusts us with his
mission.

This mission is authorised by God and passed on to us
through Jesus. It is not about authority over others. It
is actually a call to act as God would act, true to God's
heart as Jesus has taught us.

Ever since Easter, we have been proclaiming that Jesus
is alive. The feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost
help us to realise that we are part of a long tradition
of faithful disciples. We have our faults and failings,
but our call is to witness to and teach the way of Jesus
by the kind of people we are, the values and attitudes
we hold, in thought, word and action - to be the living
presence of God in the world today.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, with a diversity of gifts and ministries
you call us to be your apostles, prophets, healers and
teachers.

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Unite us in our efforts to reveal the presence of Jesus and to carry on his work.

As we witness your presence throughout the earth, we are changed.

Sustain us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that you may continue to act in extraordinary ways in our lives.

As we reach out to transform pain and doubt, struggle and chaos,

may our touch be affirming, our words be inspiring as we renew our world in love.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we 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.**

Closing Prayer

God of all creation,
may your glory be proclaimed in our lives
and the presence of your Spirit be manifested
in our church.

Through our risen Saviour, Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
and remain with us for ever.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
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