

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Come down O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing
O comforter draw near, within my heart appear
And kindle it thy holy flame bestowing.
(Bianco da Siena (d.1434); Tr. R.F.Littledale)

May the creator bless you and keep you
May the beloved compassion face you and have mercy upon you
May the eternal spirit's countenance be turned to you and give you
peace
May the three in one bless you

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Reflective Service for worship in isolation: Ascension

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7 v 14

Although the critical point in Jesus' ministry comes at the cross, the climatic point.... happens at the ascension. For Hebrews the ascension is the great liturgical moment for humanity. It is the pinnacle of Christ's redemptive work because a human being enters the heavenly place of God's presence and sits at his right hand. (Ron Man)

We come before God with honesty, and with confidence in his love and mercy for Jesus Christ intercedes for us at God's right hand. In a moment's silence, call to mind the things that are separating you from Him.

Words of confession

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit. Lord have mercy.
You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart. Christ have mercy.
You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided. Lord have mercy.

Absolution

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever. Amen.

The Word

Reflect on what these scriptures might have meant to those who first wrote it and also what it says to you at this moment –

Daniel 7 v 9-14 Acts 1 v 1-11

Luke 24 v 44-53

Then Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension of Jesus

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

We affirm our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers Use the following prayers to wait to God for the promise of power from on high and the joy of God’s blessing:

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God, we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the
river Jordan, and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**