

## Introductory Rites

*A hymn may be sung. Then, making the Sign of the Cross, the family begins:*

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

All: Amen.

Leader: We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. We are unable to be with our parish family. However, one with our brothers and sisters at Saint Andrew Parish, and with the entire Church, let us now listen to God's Word and join in prayer.

### *Penitential Act*

Leader: Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us acclaim the Father's forgiveness, for God is full of gentleness and compassion.

Lord Jesus, you heal the sick. Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you forgive sinners. Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your Body and Blood. Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

### *Opening Prayer*

Leader: Let us pray.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

## Liturgy of the Word

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the

ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9**

**R (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All you peoples, clap your hands,  
shout to God with cries of gladness,  
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,  
is the great king over all the earth.

**R God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;  
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.

Sing praise to God, sing praise;  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

**R God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

For king of all the earth is God;  
sing hymns of praise.

God reigns over the nations,  
God sits upon his holy throne.

**R God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

**A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

**Eph 1:17-23**

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might: which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel**

**Lk 24:46-53**

Jesus said to his disciples: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

*The Apostle's Creed*

All: I believe in God, the Father  
almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
***At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.***  
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.

**Prayers of the Faithful – The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

Leader: **Christ ascends into heaven, not to abandon us, but to be our hope. Filled with certainty before this great miracle of love we pray:**

Our response is: **“Risen Lord, Hear our Prayer”**

For Pope Francis, bishops, priests deacons, and all who lead God’s holy people in spreading the Good News to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.

That the authority of heaven will inform and guide the actions of those who govern on earth, let us pray to the Lord.

That the risen and ascended Lord will bless all single people and those consecrated to virginity, let us pray to the Lord.

That through the grace of the Ascension, we will be blessed with the ability to keep our minds and hearts fixed on heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

That God will protect from all evil and harm all those who serve in the protection and defense of life, especially our first responders and our service men and women serving at home and abroad, let us pray to the Lord.

That the prayers we hold in our hearts will be united with those of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, our patron Saint Andrew, and all the saints in light, let us pray to the Lord.

For all our relatives and friends who have died, and for the people of the parish, let us pray to the Lord.

**Leader: : Loving Father, thanks to the Ascension of Your Son, our human nature is now at home with You in heaven. May this truth be our lasting encouragement and hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is recited by all.*

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### **Blessing**

*Making the Sign of the Cross, we say together:*

May the Lord bless us, protect us from evil, and bring us into everlasting life. Amen.

*A concluding hymn may be sung.*