Ascension Day: A Liturgy

By Ryan Flanagan

Introit: (Leader)

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia. (Acts 1:11)

Song 1: "Christ Is Exalted" (All)

God sent His Son
Incarnate Word named Jesus, God and Man
Humbled Himself
Born of the Virgin Mary, without sin

Jesus, God of all glory
He's Jesus, oh what a story
Of God's great mercy
Jesus Gracious Redeemer
He's Jesus, beautiful bringer
Of God's great mercy

Under the law
Born in a low condition, wrath of God
Cursed to the cross
Suffered and died then buried, power of death

And in rising again, ascending to heaven
He sits at the right hand of God
And in coming again
To judge the world at the last day
Christ is exalted, Christ is exalted…

Opening Prayer: (All)

God our Father, make us joyful in the ascension of your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow him into the new creation, for his ascension is our glory and our hope. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:19-20

Preface of the Ascension: (All)

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

Today the Lord Jesus, the king of glory, the conqueror of sin and death, ascended to heaven while the angels sang his praises.

Christ, the mediator between God and man, judge of the world, and Lord of all, has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope. Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church; where he has gone, we hope to follow.

The joy of the resurrection and ascension renews the whole world, while the choirs of heaven sing for ever to your glory.

Song: "We Fall Down" (All)

We fall down, we lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus

We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb

Solemn Blessing: (Leader)

May almighty God bless you on this day when his only Son ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you. Amen.

After his resurrection, Christ was seen by his disciples. When he appears as judge may you be pleasing for ever in his sight. Amen.

You believe that Jesus has taken his seat in majesty at the right hand of the Father.
May you have the joy of experiencing that he is also with you to the end of time, according to his promise. Amen.