

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth  
with power and compassion,  
that all may find forgiveness  
and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.\*

*Or*

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place  
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Acts 1.6-11\*

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

While the apostles were still with Jesus, they asked him, 'Lord, are you now going to give Israel its own king again?'

Jesus said to them, 'You don't need to know the time of those events that only the Father controls. But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.' After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky.

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. They said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way you have seen him go.'

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL John 17.1-5, 10-11

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.*

After Jesus had finished speaking to his disciples, he looked up toward heaven and prayed:

Father, the time has come for you to bring glory to your Son, in order that he may bring glory to you. And you gave him power over all people, so he would give eternal life to everyone you give him. Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, the one you sent. I have brought glory to you here on earth by doing everything you gave me to do. Now, Father, give me back the glory I had with you before the world was created.

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine, and they will bring glory to me.

Holy Father, I am no longer in the world. I am coming to you, but my followers are still in the world. So keep them safe by the power of the name you have given me. Then they will be one with each other, just as you and I are one.

*At the end we say: Praise be to you O Christ*

## CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ  
has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.\*

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\* Indicates that the above prayers and readings have been shortened.

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