

THE PREPARATION

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE FOR ASCENSION DAY

Minister Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace when we are in need of help. Hebrews 4.14, 16

ACCLAMATION

Minister Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.
People **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power, and might,
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE *Sung by the choir.* Great and Wonderful Will Butthod

Great and wonderful are your deeds O Lord God the almighty:
just and true are your ways O Sovereign of the nations.
Who shall not revere and praise your name O Lord?:
for you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship in your presence:
for your just dealings have been revealed.
To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb:
be blessing and honour, glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

Minister Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us praise and worship God who has called us together. Let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of God's love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read, we can allow God's word to speak to us and ponder its meaning for our lives. In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness, we pray for others as well as ourselves, and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us of our Savior Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.
Hear these words of scripture.

Minister As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct.
Choir Spirit of God, search our hearts.
Minister Let us kneel, and in silence, remember our need for God's forgiveness.

The People kneel, as able.

Minister Let us confess our sins to God.
All **Almighty and merciful God,
 we have sinned against you,
 in thought, word, and deed.
 We have not loved you with all our heart.
 We have not loved others
 as our Saviour Christ loves us.
 We are truly sorry.
 In your mercy forgive what we have been,
 help us to amend what we are,
 and direct what we shall be;
 that we may delight in your will
 and walk in your ways
 through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Minister Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent,
 forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
 and keep you in life eternal;
 through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Minister O come, let us sing to the Lord,

Will Buthod

Choir Let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

Minister We sing to you, O God, and bless your name;

Choir and tell of your salvation from day to day.

Minister We proclaim your glory to the nations,

Choir your praise to the ends of the earth.

PSALM 24 *Sung by the choir. Please be seated.*

Will Buthod

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle."

- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
 lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
 and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" *
 "The Lord of hosts,
 he is the King of glory."
 Glory to the Father and to the Son, *
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning is now, *
 and shall be for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector Here what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE MAGNIFICAT *The Song of Mary Sung by choir.*

Will Buthod

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord *
 my spirit rejoices in God my saviour,
 for you Lord have looked with favour on your lowly servant *
 and from this day all generations will call me blessed.
 You O Most Mighty have done great things for me *
 and holy is your name.
 You have mercy on those who fear you*
 from generation to generation.
 You have shown the strength of your arm, *
 you have scattered the proud in their conceit.
 You have cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
 and have lifted up the lowly.
 You have filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich you have sent away empty.

You have come to the help of your people, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
the promise you made to our forbears *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now, *
and shall be for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Lector Here what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon Sung by the choir.*

Will Buthod

Lord now you let your servant go in peace *
your word has been fulfilled.
Mine eyes have seen your salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every people,
a light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now, *
and shall be for ever. Amen.

THE HOMILY

THE APOSTLES' CREED *All stand as able, and all chant the creed in monotone.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Will Buthod

Minister The Lord be with you.
Choir The Lord bless you.
Minister As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray
All chant the Lord's Prayer in monotone.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Minister Make your ways known upon earth, O God,
Choir your saving power among all peoples.
Minister Renew your Church in holiness,
Choir and help us to serve you with joy.
Minister Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
Choir *Kia riro mai ai i nga tangata katoa nga mea e tika ana ki a ratou.*
(that justice may prevail throughout the world.)
Minister Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten,
Choir nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Minister Make us instruments of your peace,
Choir and let your glory be over all the earth.

THE COLLECT FOR ASCENSION DAY

The Minister chants the collects, and the Choir responds, "Amen," after each prayer.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

THE COLLECT FOR EVENING

Gracious God, you have given us much today; grant us also a thankful spirit. Into your hands we commend ourselves and those we love. Be with us still, and when we take our rest renew us for the service of your Son Jesus Christ.

The choir sings

In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ANTHEM	<i>Sung by the choir</i>	Ave Maria	Will Buthod
		(Based on the Maori tune, <i>E papa waiari</i>)	
	<i>Ave Maria, gratia plena,</i>	Hail Mary, full of grace,	
	<i>Dominus tecum;</i>	the Lord is with thee;	
	<i>benedicta tu in mulieribus,</i>	blessed art thou among women,	
	<i>et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.</i>	and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.	
	<i>Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,</i>	Holy Mary, Mother of God,	
	<i>ora pro nobis peccatoribus,</i>	pray for us sinners,	
	<i>nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen. (Amine)</i>	now and at the hour of our death. Amen.	

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *On following page, sung by all. Please stand as able.*

THE DISMISSAL

<i>Minister</i>	Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.	Will Buthod
<i>Choir</i>	Amen. We go in the name of Christ.	
	<i>Amine, Ka haere matou i runga i te ingoa o te Karaiti.</i>	

VOLUNTARY	Acclamations carolingiennes (from <i>Suite Médiévale</i>)	Jean Langlais
	Käthe Wright Kaufman, organist	

Tune: Maori melody
 Text: Maori hymn, para. Shirley Erena Murray

1. Son of God, whose heart is peace,
 2. Take a - way our sin - ful - ness,
 3. Warm our hearts to love you, Lord,

Son of God, most ho - ly,
 e - vil that im - pris - ons us;
 you who died to save us;

to your pres - ence we have come;
 free us from what trou - bles us;
 gath - er us with - in your arms,

give us now your love.
 give our souls re - lease.
 Je - sus, on this day.