

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence  
as our Saviour has taught us  
**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.**

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## THE CONCLUSION

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**

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For more information about St Peter's,  
please refer to [www.stpeterscolchester.org](http://www.stpeterscolchester.org)  
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# A Service of Prayer on Ascension Day

Thursday 10th May 2018

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days  
we have been celebrating with joyful hearts  
the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
his bursting from the tomb  
and his defeat of the power of sin and death.  
He appeared to his disciples many times  
and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth  
and returned to his Father,  
ascending into heaven to take his throne  
over all dominions and powers.

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## THE COLLECT FOR ASCENSION DAY

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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## THE GOSPEL READING (Luke 24.44-end)

<sup>44</sup> 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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."

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## THE ASCENSION READING (Acts 1.1-14)

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be

my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## A TIME OF OPEN PRAYER

*Please feel to pray out loud, or silently...*

*for particular people to come to know the Lord Jesus*

*for the key themes from our various readings*

*for those in particular need this day*

*for the mission of the church in a needy world*

*for specific issues, using the Church Prayer Card*

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