**THE ORDER OF SERVICE OF ASCENSION**

**FOR SCHOOLS**

*When all assemble in the school hall, the Officiant, who can be a clergy or a school chaplain, or any lay person appointed by the school, may begin the service by saying the Call to Worship.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*All stand.*

*The Officiant may say one of the following words before the Procession which normally takes place at the entrance of the hall.*

Jesus said, “I am with you always, to the end of the world.” *Matthew 28:20*

We have a great high priest who has passed into heavens, Jesus the Son of God. *Hebrews 4:14*

The disciples worshipped Jesus and went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and were continually in the temple, praising God. *Luke 24:52-53*

Sing praises to God’s holy name: make a highway for the one who rides on the clouds, whose name is the Lord, in whose presence exult. *Psalm 68:4*

*The Officiating party will process to the hall accompanied by instrumental music.*

**GREETINGS**

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***People He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

Officiant Christ has ascended! Alleluia, Alleluia!

***People Our High King─He shall reign for ever! Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**OPENING HYMN**

**COLLECT**

*All remain standing.*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

***People And also with you.***

Officiant Let us pray.

*Silence*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Saviour 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.

***People Amen.***

**READING(S)**

*If there is only one reading, one of the following gospel readings is recommended.*

*If there are two readings, Acts 1:6-11 and the gospel either from Matthew or John are recommended.*

*A hymn or chorus singing is appropriate between the readings, if desired.*

*Acts 1:6-11*

So when the disciples had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

*Matthew 28:16-20*

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.And when they saw him they worshipped 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,teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

*Luke 24:44-53*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all 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, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

*John 15:1-8*

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

*After each reading,*

Lector The Word of the Lord

***People Thanks be to God.***

**HOMILY**

*All keep a moment of silence after the homily, a hymn may follow.*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*All stand.*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*All stand.*

Officiant As Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**All *Our father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, in earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

**INTERCESSIONS**

*It is advisable that a student or a teacher be invited to be leader of the Prayers.*

Leader Almighty God: teach us to reverence you at all times; teach us to thank you in all times; teach us to look for you in all places; teach us to love you in all people; teach us to receive you in all your fullness.

Lord Christ, High King of the universe,

***People Hear our prayer.***

Leader Gracious God, we pray that you forgive us when we regard faith with indifference or fail to apply ourselves to learning its scope. Forgive us when we exhibit smugness of knowledge in matters of faith. Turn us toward accepting the humility of wisdom. Forgive us, too, when we settle for pat answers rather than daring to exercise the freedom and curiosity that inspire a living faith.

Lord Christ, High King of the universe,

***People Hear our prayer.***

Leader O eternal God, bless all schools, [especially ], that they may be lively centres for sound learning, new discovery and the pursuit of wisdom; grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth.

Lord Christ, High King of the universe,

***People Hear our prayer.***

**BLESSING**

*All remain standing.*

*This is to be said by a priest.*

Officiant God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

***People Amen.***

*If there is no priest present to say the Blessing, the following sentence may be used to conclude the service.*

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

***People Amen.***

**DISMISSAL**

Officiant Alleluia!

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

***People Thanks be to God. Alleluia!***

*The officiating party will recede from the hall accompanied by instrumental music.*