

Ascension Day 21st May 2020

The Collect

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 as-
cend
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.

Acts 1.4-11

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 re-
ceive 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 gaz-
ing 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.’

Luke 24.44-end

And when he had said this, he showed
them his hands and his feet. While in
their joy they were disbelieving and still
wondering, he said to them, “Have you
anything here to eat?” They gave him a
piece of broiled fish, and he took it and
ate in their presence.

Then he 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, the
prophets, and the psalms must be ful-
filled.” Then he opened their minds to
understand the scriptures, and he said to
them, “Thus it is written, that the Messi-
ah is to suffer and to rise from the dead
on the third day, and that repentance and
forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed
in his name to all nations, beginning
from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of
these things. And see, I am sending
upon you what my Father promised; so
stay here in the city until you have been
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 was blessing them, he
withdrew from them and was carried up
into heaven. And they worshiped him,
and returned to Jerusalem with great
joy; and they were continually in the
temple blessing God.