



## Worship resources 7th Sunday of Easter

If it is possible to celebrate Ascension Day mid-week, then this Sunday becomes a powerful bridge between the Ascension and Pentecost which follows next week. Part of what creates this meaningful journey is the focus, in the readings for Easter 7A, on Jesus' longing for glory, and the gift of glory which he brings to his followers (which in this context is almost synonymous with 'home') and the 'refugee status' both of the incarnate Christ and of his followers who await the coming of God's reign in fullness.

May our worship give us a glimpse of home, and lead us into a willing commitment to the life of a refugee for the sake of the Kingdom.

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

**Acts 1:6-14**: The disciples question Jesus about the timing of God's restoration of Israel, but Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and then ascends into heaven as they watch. Then two white-robed men tell them that Jesus will return in the same way they saw him leave.

**Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35**: A psalm of victory and praise, celebrating God's might in military terms, and rejoicing in God's protection of the weak and vulnerable, and in God's provision of a home for God's people.

**1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**: Peter encourages the persecuted believers, reminding them that they have witnessed Christ's suffering and share in it, and that they have the hope of seeing Christ's glory, and sharing in that as well.

**John 17:1-11**: Jesus prays for himself that God will take him back into the glory he shared with the Father. Then he prays for his disciples, who have received Christ's message and have believed and given him glory, that they may be protected by God's name and may be one as Christ and the Father are one.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Acts%201:6-14%0A%20BOR%0AEzekiel%2039:21-29%0Acw%20Psalm%2068:1-10,%2032-35%0A1%20Peter%204:12-14,%205:6-11%0AJohn%2017:%201-11](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Acts%201:6-14%0A%20BOR%0AEzekiel%2039:21-29%0Acw%20Psalm%2068:1-10,%2032-35%0A1%20Peter%204:12-14,%205:6-11%0AJohn%2017:%201-11)

## **COLLECTS OF THE DAY**

### **Collect One**

O God the King of glory,  
who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven;  
We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless;  
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us,  
and exalt us unto the same place  
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

### **Collect Two**

O God the King of Glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
Mercifully give us faith to know  
that, as he promised,  
he abides with us on earth to the end of time;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1**

You are free, Lord, your Ascension has set you free: free from the constraints of human existence, outside the limitations of time and space; free to be here with us now, in our worship and fellowship; and free to be with us always; for in your freedom you have bound yourself to us with a promise: "Lo! I am with you always even to the very end of time."

We pray, Lord, for those who need to feel you close, who need the assurance of your love, the encouragement of your Spirit.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, who are mocked because of their faith or race or colour.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are imprisoned, who are tortured, who are exiled, because they have fought, struggled and spoken out for the rights of their people.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are destitute, who are hungry, who are refugees, because of the selfishness and apathy of the world. We pray for those who are filled with guilt, who are broken-hearted, who are perplexed, because a relationship has gone wrong.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are feeling fed up, who are in discomfort, who are afraid, because they are ill in body, mind or spirit.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are numbed, who are angry, who are desolate, because they have been bereaved.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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We pray at this time of financial turmoil, for those who have lost jobs, those who struggle to pay bills, and those who have the power to affect positive change. Be with us all, Lord:

in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you.

[Silence]

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Be with us all, Lord: in our periods of doubt and despair; and in our times of happiness, health and loving.

Be with us all, Lord: until that time when in your Kingdom of Love our joy will know no end: **Amen**

### Prayers of the people 2

As Jesus prayed for his first disciples so also does he pray for us. Let ask that our prayers be joined with his, saying, "Hear us, Lord," and respond, "Hear us, Alleluia!"

For our Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ (*eg, on his upcoming anniversary of ordination*), that guided by the Holy Spirit, he might speak prophetically on behalf of the poorest members of our communities.  
Hear us, Lord  
**Hear us, Alleluia!**

For bankers and leaders of financial institutions who seek to live their Christian faith at work, that they might be strengthened in their desire to use wealth to help the homeless and the poor.  
Hear us, Lord  
**Hear us, Alleluia!**

For those who suffer from the anxiety of a stress-filled work place, that they might know peace through the transforming power of God's love.  
Hear us, Lord  
**Hear us, Alleluia!**

Forthose preparing for baptism/confirmation, especially \_\_\_\_\_, as they prepare to affirm their vocations as Christians in the world, that they might hear God's great call to lose their lives in order that their lives might be fulfilled through service in Christ's name.

Hear us, Lord

**Hear us, Alleluia!**

For our silence in the face of our government's neglect of the poor, for our failure to speak in the face of renewed nuclear testing, and for our fear which keeps

us from reaching out in love, we ask forgiveness. Redeem us, and strengthen us for renewed service in your name.

Hear us, Lord

**Hear us, Alleluia!**

### Prayers of the people 3

We offer these prayers trusting fully that they will be heard. **Amen.**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

**Prayers of the people 4**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Queen/President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city (town, village, \_\_\_\_\_), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air [or through outer space], let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For \_\_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of [\_\_\_\_\_ and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

## **POST COMMUNION**

Eternal Giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom.

Confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **PRAYERS**

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

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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. Amen

*Common Worship*

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the father. *Common Worship*

Lord of Hosts, purify our hearts that the King of Glory may come in, even your Son, Jesus our Redeemer; for he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

Eternal God, you have given all authority in heaven and on earth to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Grant that we may never lose the vision of your kingdom but serve you with hope and joy; through him who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

O Almighty God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to set our affection on things above: grant us so to labour in this life as ever to be mindful of our citizenship in those heavenly places whither our saviour Christ is gone before. *Book of Common Prayer South Africa*

You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.  
This is your ascension, your ascendancy over the whole universe.  
You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.  
You stand above all that is worst as ultimate victor.  
You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.  
You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love.  
You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.  
You are Lord 'My Lord and my God' *Rex Chapman*

Lord of Hosts, purify our hearts that the King of Glory may come in, even your Son, Jesus our Redeemer; for he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Let us pray [that we may recognise the presence of Christ]  
Father, help us to keep in mind that Christ our Saviour lives with you in glory and promised to remain with us until the end of time. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *AAPB*



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O God, whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom: by your Holy Spirit, hold the Church in unity, and keep it faithful to your word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and for ever. **Amen.** *APBA*

### Intercession

Almighty God, We come today reminded of your greatness and glory, your sovereign power and eternal purpose all expressed so wonderfully in Jesus Christ, our Lord: Risen and Ascended.

We thank you for the wonder of Ascension, that marvellous yet mysterious moment in the life of the Apostles which left them gazing heavenwards in confusion yet departing in joy.

We thank you for the way that it brought the earthly ministry of Jesus to a fitting conclusion; signifying his oneness with you, and demonstrating your final seal of approval on all that he had done.

We thank you that through his Ascension Jesus is now set free to be Lord of all: no longer bound to a particular place or time, but with us always - able to reach even to the ends of the earth.

We thank you that through his departing Jesus prepared for his coming again: through his Spirit, his Church, and his coming again in glory.

Gracious God, Forgive us for so often failing to grasp the wonder of Ascension, for living each day as though it had never been. Forgive the smallness of our vision, the narrowness of our outlook, the weakness of our love, the nervousness of our witness, our repeated failure to recognise the fullness of your revelation in Christ.

Give us a deeper sense of wonder, a stronger faith,

Father God,  
and a greater understanding of all you have done.

Like the Apostles, we too will never fully understand all Ascension means. We accept, but we do not fully understand. We believe, yet we have many questions.

Help us, despite our uncertainty, to hold firm to the great truth that the wonder of Christ Jesus goes far beyond anything we can ever imagine, and in that faith may we live each day to his glory and honour: Amen

## **LECTIONARY NOTES 1**

### **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

It may sound like a strange connection to make, but this week's readings bring together two ideas that appear disparate – glory and refugees. Jesus was, in a sense, the ultimate refugee – choosing to leave behind his home in glory in order to live without a home (See Matthew 8:20) and to proclaim God's Kingdom as a home for all. In the light of this, his prayer to return to glory reveals a poignant longing for home. In a similar way, in Acts, Jesus, in a cryptic, round about way, invites his disciples to give up on their hope for an earthly kingdom as home, and to recognise that God is their home. The angelic message that they will see Jesus return in the same way he left is reminiscent of Jesus' words in John 14:2-3. For the Psalmist, God's victory brings a place of safety and belonging to the most vulnerable and to God's people. Peter encourages the believers to endure persecution because, as they share in Christ's suffering, so they also have the hope of sharing in Christ's glory – Christ's home. So, even as Jesus the Refugee longed for home, and opened the way for his followers to find a home in God's Kingdom (God's glory) so we live as refugees, at home in God's glory, but, walking in this world, unable as yet to see and experience it completely. And as Christ the Refugee sought to provide a home for refugees – the marginalised, the poor, the excluded and the suffering – so, as we are called to follow him, we are called to be one with Christ and the Father, not just in their glory, but also in their home-building mission.

### **CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

**GLOBAL APPLICATION:** The plight of refugees is never long forgotten in our world. Almost daily we are faced with images of those who have lost homes through war and conflict, through natural disasters, through political exile or through the impact of poverty. Millions of people find themselves as refugees, and the majority of them (75% I believe) are women. The impact of homelessness on the dignity and humanity of those who live it is immeasurable, and is a massive challenge to those of us who seek to follow Christ. But, there is much that we can do. We can support calls for international assistance in places of conflict that cause the displacement of people. We can lobby for the cancellation of unjust debts that cripple third world countries and leave many of their people destitute. We can vote for and work for more equitable international trade regulations that enable poorer countries to compete on a level playing field, and that can help to boost their economies. We can help, through our influence, our voice and our

participation in political processes, to ensure that aid that is promised to poor countries is delivered. We can speak out against the corruption in international business deals that would line the pockets of a few and stop benefits reaching those who most need them. Perhaps we can even travel to refugee camps (or local homeless shelters) and offer comfort, food and compassion to those who feel rejected and forgotten by the world. Whatever we may choose to do, we cannot follow the Refugee Christ and turn a blind eye to those who are displaced. And then, along with whatever social and material help we may offer, we can continue to invite people into the home that is God's glory, God's reign, where all people are equally welcome at the table, and all belong equally.

**LOCAL APPLICATION:** If the church is called to be anything it is called to be a home to the homeless and displaced. This does not just mean those who lack a physical home, but those who find themselves alone without a family, without friends, without a spiritual or emotional home. Unfortunately, though, it is too often the Church that leaves people as refugees, turning them away from the community of faith for no reason other than that they are different – in gender, sexuality, colour, culture, language, theology or appearance. Every community has people who long for a place to find a home in God's grace and God's Kingdom. These refugees are deeply loved and unconditionally welcomed by Christ, and we are called to manifest this as we open our doors and our hearts to them. More than this, we are called to seek out those who long to know the promise of God's Spirit. This calling has a huge impact on how we identify ourselves as Church, on how we understand our mission, and on how we worship. As William Temple said, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those that are not its members." The challenge for us is to recognise that we are a refugee community – one that does not find its home in the kingdoms of this world, or by controlling political power structures (as the disciples had to learn), but one that waits for, that longs for, a return to glory, to a home that is eternal and that is both manifest now and yet to be realised fully in the future. Once we have truly grasped this, we find we cannot help but stand alongside and seek to serve those who find themselves to be refugees of every kind. What might it mean for your church to view itself as a refugee community?

## **LECTIONARY NOTES 2**

In our Gospel reading Jesus looks towards heaven and speaks to the Father, summing up what's about to happen and praying for His disciples and for all believers. In verses 1 - 5 Jesus reports that he has completed the task of making the Father known and asks to return to the Father's glory. In verses 6 - 8 He amplifies His report. He has passed on to the believers that which he

received from the Father. But the focus is not about communicating information but about the establishment and confirmation of a special relationship with God. In this relationship is life itself, here on earth and for eternity, in the world and beyond the world. And for all those who have entered into this relationship, they too are special. Special because they belong to the Father through this new relationship, and because of this they are invited to share in the task which the Father gave the Son. As we are called to carry on this task today, we, like them will face many challenges, the same challenges that Jesus highlights in His report back to the Father. The challenge of a hostile world, the challenge of temptation to give up when the going gets tough, and the challenge of disunity among believers. How could they, or we, ever succeed?

This passage from John is Jesus' prayer for what the Father will do for the world, through his risen Son, through the church. It is not a declaration of what is, but a heartfelt prayer for what shall be. It is not a blueprint for how unity will take form or mission take place, but a plea for the Father's strong name to protect those who are in the world who are called and open to the task of doing mission with joy and hope. A passionate appeal from Jesus to His Father that the believers may withstand the challenges which will lie ahead.

As Jesus ascended into heaven and left the earth in bodily form, the believers must have wondered what the future held. In an uncertain, sceptical and hostile world they must have felt alone and overwhelmed by the task to which Jesus had charged them. Paul, in his pastoral letter to Peter gives an indication of just how hard the task might be. It's not for the fainthearted. The enemy is prowling round like a lion, ready to devour anyone it can get its teeth into. For early Christians with memories of their friends and families being thrown to the lions by the Romans this can't have been a comforting image. Fortunately Paul goes on to say how these Christians can resist. They need to stand firm in their faith, confident in the hope that lies before them as God restores and strengthens them for the task in hand. It was a two way street. God would strengthen and restore them if they stood firm in their faith. Presumably the weaker their convictions, the more difficult it would be for them to stand firm. A challenge for them to be deeply rooted in their embryonic faith. Strength coming not from years of experience or tradition, but strength in believing that the God who came to earth in Jesus would do what He said and transform their lives and the lives of others by His gentle, yet all powerful touch.

As they stepped out in this fledgling belief, would they be ignored as irrelevant, ridiculed for trying to speak out about their faith, brushed aside as they tried to show God's love? Would they be paralysed by fear and uncertainty? Would the pressure to conform to the prevailing lax attitudes overwhelm them? Would they be split by arguments and dissention? Time would tell. It did. History shows that through the power of the Holy Spirit who did indeed strengthen them they, and countless others through the ages, were more than ready and able for the task. The question is, are we? *Sam Cappleman*

## **SERMON STARTER**

**“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?”**

**[Acts 1:11]**

The implication is that the disciples should now be looking in the direction where the message of Jesus would lead them.

A moving meditation on this moment by an American theologian [Rev. Dr. Barbara K. Lundblad - Professor of Preaching, Union Theological Seminary, New York] asks what might have happened if, instead of looking upwards, the Disciples had looked downward and seen Jesus' footprints in the dust of the earth. Here is where their focus should be: on the footprints which remind them of everything Jesus said and did. Rather than looking up, waiting for something to happen, the Disciples are called to walk in Jesus footsteps and to be his witnesses - as they spread his good news throughout Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

How often is our own faith journey marked by looking upwards to the heavens - waiting for something to happen, confused by change, looking for a perfect world and perhaps yearning for how things used to be?

Surely our Christian journey calls us to look across the face of the earth as we seek Jesus' footprints, measure our own steps against them, embrace transformation and empowerment, and decide where those footprints might be leading us.

Ascension is not a call to look upwards: it is a call to trust that Christ's promise is down - and in - and around - and among us.

**NB** If using this Sermon idea it is, of course, important to be mindful of Colossians 3:2, which says: “Set your minds on things that are above, not on

things that are on earth..." Seeking Jesus at work in the world is not the same as focusing on earthly things.

Often we can "set our minds on things above" by looking to where Jesus is active all around us.

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

**John 17:1-11 Jesus looked up to heaven...** It was a traumatic evening.... *the night that he was betrayed* – and in this time of mental turmoil, Jesus turns to his Father in what is known as "**the High Priestly Prayer**"..

**1. The Prayer of the Lord:-** *Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son – bring glory through my death and victory over sin & Satan & death... His desire is to fulfil the Father's will and complete His Salvation Plan - to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

**2. The Presence of the Father:-** *5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed – in the days of pre-history – a restoration to Jesus' pre-earthly glory before Creation – a fantastic concept – stupendous thought – so difficult for our finite minds to comprehend – the claim of a lunatic or the Lord? I am coming to you – returning home – meanwhile....*

**3. The Protection of the Disciples:-** *the 12 and all followers in subsequent days 6 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.*

*They belong to you – your children by faith – what a wonderful concept! 7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me in the world, Holy Father, protect them in your name .... so that they may be one, as we are one...*

*By Norman Porteous*

## **ONLINE SERMON SOURCES**

**Jesus didn't say, 'Beam me up' - [Episcopal network](#)**



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The Ascension of Jesus is not a device to get him back into heaven from whence he came. The Ascension is an account of how Jesus, having finished his work on earth, blazes a trail over which we one day shall travel, a trail to eternal life that continues our relationship with the risen Jesus and God, our creator and redeemer.

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2014/?cat=8>

["You Can't Keep a Good Man Down,"](http://day1.org/1092-you-cant-keep-a-good-man-down) the Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler, *Day 1*

[http://day1.org/1092-you cant keep a good man down](http://day1.org/1092-you-cant-keep-a-good-man-down)

["Footprints on the Earth,"](http://day1.org/937-footprints-on-the-earth) the Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad, *Day 1*

[http://day1.org/937-footprints on the earth](http://day1.org/937-footprints-on-the-earth)

**Ascension and baptism** - from an Australian Lutheran parish. This relates the presence of the ascended Jesus to baptism, and will be a useful thought provoker if you have baptisms on that day. Text however is from Ephesians...

"In this letter to the Ephesians, Paul teaches us what the Ascension really means. He says again in [chapter 4:10](#) that Jesus ascended so that he could fill all things – so that, no matter where we are and where we go, Jesus, the supreme ruler and Lord of the universe, is there.

"This is why when we baptise a little child here in our church, Jesus himself is here – though we cannot see him – just as he is also present when a little child is being baptised in Brazil or anywhere else. When we celebrate Holy Communion it's the same – because Jesus fills the whole world, he is able to be with us here, with his body and blood. But that is only the tip of the iceberg..."

<http://www.ringwoodknoxparish.org.au/sermons/2008/2008-05-04.html>

## CHILDREN

### Children's / All-Age Talk

A simple re-telling of the Ascension story as found in Acts 1:1-11 is a possibility. An old Church of Scotland Summer Mission trick is to read the story through properly asking the congregation to listen carefully – telling them that on the second reading you will make some changes. When it comes to the second read-through you can make obvious changes, silly changes and subtle changes. The children, in particular, will love pointing out the mistakes you have made. This is a good way of reading and learning a Bible Story in a fun way.

Talk about those things that are unseen but all around us: air, electricity etc. Draw the comparison with Jesus. When he walked with the Disciples in

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Galilee, Jesus was restricted to being in one place at any time – just as we all are – due to the laws of space and time. Now because of the Ascension, Jesus can be with us always. We may not see him, just as we do not see air or electricity, but we can know his loving presence.

Kingship is another possibility for an All-Age or Children's Address at Ascension time – especially if you don't mark Christ The King Sunday as a congregation. Make several cardboard crowns with the names of famous kings and queens on the front. Give them to willing volunteers. One of the crowns should say: JESUS. Then read out the names of kingdoms [or show a map or picture on a screen] and ask which of the kings/queens ruled over that Kingdom; for example Robert the Bruce and the Kingdom of Scotland. Leave "**The Whole Earth**" Psalm 47 till the end. Talk about the faults

*by Rev Bryce Calder, St David's Memorial, Kirkintilloch*

[Worshiping with Children](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/year-the-ascension-of-lord-thursday-may.html), Easter 7A, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown  
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/year-the-ascension-of-lord-thursday-may.html>

["Being Squirrely,"](http://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2014/05/12/squirrely/) Fran Woodruff, *On the Chancel Steps*  
<http://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2014/05/12/squirrely/>

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[Proclaiming Faith](http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm), discussion, prayer, activities for primary grades, activities  
[http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming\\_faith.cfm](http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm)

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[Worshiping with Children](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2011/04/year-the-sunday-after-ascension-of.html), Sunday after the Ascension, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown  
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2011/04/year-the-sunday-after-ascension-of.html>

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["Sermon of the Week,"](http://www.sermons4kids.com/) / ["Mensajes para ninos,"](http://www.sermons4kids.com/) Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.  
<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

["Getting on the Same Page"](http://annashosannas.net/Easter-7A.php) Children's Lesson for Easter 7A, from Anna's Hosannas  
<http://annashosannas.net/Easter-7A.php>



## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

[To God Be The Glory](#)

[Amazing Grace](#)

[And Can It Be](#)

[We Rest On Thee Our Shield And Our Defender](#)

[God Is Our Strength And Refuge](#)

[I Cannot Tell Why He Whom Angels Worship](#)

[Always Forever](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[Your Grace Is Enough](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[There's A Place \(Because Of You\)](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[The Power Of Your Love](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[Everyone Belongs](#)

[You Are](#)

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