Ascension Day Mass for Schools

**Prayers & Readings**

Below are the official *Roman Missal* texts for the Mass of the Feast of the Ascension together with alternative prayers for use in Masses with children according to the provision of the *Directory on Masses with Children* (1973) that, “since these prayers were composed for adult Christians, the principle simply of choosing from among them does not serve the purpose of having the children regard the prayers as an expression of their own life and religious experience, the text of prayers of the *Roman Missal* may be adapted to the needs of children, but this should be done in such a way that [preserves] the purpose of the prayer and to some extent its substance as well . . .” (n.51)

Collect (Opening Prayer)

Gladden us with holy joys,

almighty God,

and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,

for the ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation,

and where the Head has gone before in glory,

the Body is called to follow in hope.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*or*

Grant, we pray, almighty God,

that we, who believe that your only begotten Son,

our redeemer,

ascended this day to the heavens,

may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Alternative Collect*

Almighty God,

today we celebrate that day when Jesus

was lifted up to heaven

as his disciples watched and witnessed.

May we be your disciples and witnesses today

and always be ready for our lives with you in heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Scripture Reading

*Acts 1:3-11 (JB adapted)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Jesus showed himself alive to the apostles after his passion by many demonstrations. For forty days he continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.

When he was at table with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. Jesus said, ‘John baptised with water but, not many days from now, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.

They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

God goes up with shouts of joy!

The Lord goes up with trumpet blast!

**God goes up with shouts of joy!**

**The Lord goes up with trumpet blast!**

All peoples clap your hands,

cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the most high, we must fear,

great king over all the earth.

**God goes up with shouts of joy!**

**The Lord goes up with trumpet blast!**

God goes up with shouts of joy;

the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,

sing praise to our king, sing praise.

**God goes up with shouts of joy!**

**The Lord goes up with trumpet blast!**

God is king of all the earth.

Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;

God reigns on his holy throne.

**God goes up with shouts of joy!**

**The Lord goes up with trumpet blast!**

Gospel

*Mark 16:15-20 (JB)*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Go, make disciples of all the nations.**

**I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.**

**Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel + according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned.

These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Dramatic reading of the Gospel for seven voices*

*Narrator*

*Jesus*

*Speakers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*

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| Priest  **All**  Priest  **All** | The Lord be with you.  **And with your spirit.**  A reading from the holy gospel + according to Mark.  **Glory be to you, O Lord.** |
| **Narrator** | Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table  and he said to them: |
| **Jesus** | Go out to the whole world;  proclaim the Good News to all creation.  He who believes and is baptised will be saved;  he who does not believe will be condemned.  These are the signs that will be associated with believers:  In my name . . . |
| **Speaker 1** | . . . they will cast out devils! |
| **Speaker 2** | . . . they will have the gift of tongues! |
| **Speaker 3** | . . . they will pick up snakes in their hands! |
| **Speaker 4** | . . . they will be unharmed should they drink deadly poison! |
| **Speaker 5** | . . . they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover! |
| **Narrator** | And so the Lord Jesus,  after he had spoken to them,  was taken up into heaven.  There at the right hand of God he took his place,  while they, going out, preached everywhere,  the Lord working with them  and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it. |
| Priest  **All** | The gospel of the Lord.  **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**. |

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice in supplication, O Lord,

to honour the wondrous ascension of your Son.

Grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange

we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Alternative Prayer over the Offerings*

Lord,

we bring bread and wine to your altar

on this great feast of the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

May we follow where Jesus has gone before.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Easter Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Lord, holy Father almighty and eternal God,

through Christ our Lord.

For after his resurrection he plainly appeared to all his disciples

and was taken up to heaven in their sight

that he might make us sharers in his divinity.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,

every land, every people exults in your praise

and even the heavenly powers, with the angelic hosts,

sing together the unending hymn of your glory,

as they acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts . . .**

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God,

who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,

grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward

to where our nature is united with you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Alternative Prayer after Communion*

Lord,

we thank for sharing with us the bread and wine

which you shared with your disciples

before you ascended into heaven.

We pray that as we live our lives on earth,

our hearts and minds may always be set on heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Prayers from the *Roman Missal* (2010)

Scripture readings – Jerusalem Bible translation (1966)

Psalm – Grail translation (1963)

Alternative prayers – Jesuit Institute (2018)