

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**Ascended Lord:**

We bring before you all those afflicted by the darkness of suffering in body, mind and soul, who are without perfect health, or know the oppression of abuse, isolation, powerlessness and struggle. As you, being raised up to the glory of the Father, having suffered through being raised upon the cross, understand the torture and suffering of your people, we humbly pray for relief from all such suffering and for your presence in the midst of that darkness. Amen.

**Collects for Ascension Day:**

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God, that like as we believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven; so may we in heart and mind also ascend, and with him continually dwell, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

O God the King of glory, who has exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph into the kingdom of heaven: we ask that you leave us not comfortless; but send to us thy Holy Spirit to comfort us, and exalt us into heaven where our savior Christ has gone before. Amen.

**Acts 1:6** So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, “Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He told them, “You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** 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 farthest parts of the earth.” **9** After he had said this, while they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud hid him from their sight.

**Prayer Letter**

**14th May 2023**



**Acts 1:11** “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven.”

**Revelation 21:2** And I saw the holy city—the new Jerusalem—descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband.

***Ascended Lord hear us as we pray,***

**For unity in your church,** that your ministers unerringly follow the truth of your Word.

**For those in power and authority**, that they use such gifts for glorification for your kingdom.

**For emergency workers,** that they be protected against all evils and perils and the are the strength to protect and heal you people.

**For the sick,** that they may be blessed and comforted by your Holy Spirit.

**For all your disciples in Blackpool,** that their faithfulness, hopefulness and love may ascend the people of Blackpool into your everlasting mercy and love.

**Amen.**

***Ascended Lord hear us as we pray,***

**For all our church leaders,** Reverend David and Alison, as they continue to recover from illness, your bishops Philip and Jill, and your archdeacons Mark and David.

**For Steve and Lisa,** as they shepherd your people in Blackpool.

**For your other leaders and servants,** particularly those who assist in cleaning and maintaining your church here at St. Thomas, and those who care for the grounds and create beauty in the parish.

**For Thomas** as he continues his placement here and elsewhere in Blackpool.

**And for those visiting the church for the first time,** that their souls may be raised up to your glory.

***Ascended Lord hear us as we pray,***

**In celebration of your ascension,** that we may heartily and energetically direct ourselves towards the place where you have gone before us, such that we may be orientated towards the coming of your kingdom and our hearts prepared for the glorification thereof. Likewise, we pray for defence against all manner of distraction and deceit that would otherwise draw us away from you. Amen.

**For strength of unity,** that like as your servants in Corinth were corrected in their ways against sin and made to be a bulwark against evil, we ask for the same conviction and absolution against evil, and for the confidence and strength, granted by the Holy Spirit to fight valiantly against sin and to follow without error your gracious commandments. Amen.

**For those who do not know you,** that through our following of your love and truth, we may display discipleship, fellowship, and obedience to you, such that your heavenly kingdom may swell with the ranks of those who come to seek you. May our lives be a display of your everlasting mercy and love, so that those who witness us may be drawn into your embrace. Amen.

**In preparation for Pentecost,** that our bodies, hearts and minds which you have made to be temples of the Holy Spirit may be made wholly open to your influence. We pray that the spirit of man, which is capable of little, would be renewed and replaced by the Holy Spirit, and that may live in union with the same now and always. Amen.