

## Order for Liturgy of the Word

### Solemnity of The Ascension of The Lord

#### Entrance Antiphon: Leader

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Acts 1:11



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sisters and Brothers, God desires to converse with us through his Word. Let us bless him for his goodness. Blessed be God forever.

**Response:** Blessed be God forever.

#### Introduction: Leader

We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. One with our sisters and brothers and with the entire Church, we will listen to God's Word and join in prayer. So, as we prepare to hear of God's love poured out through Christ, let us acknowledge that He is the source of pardon and strength.

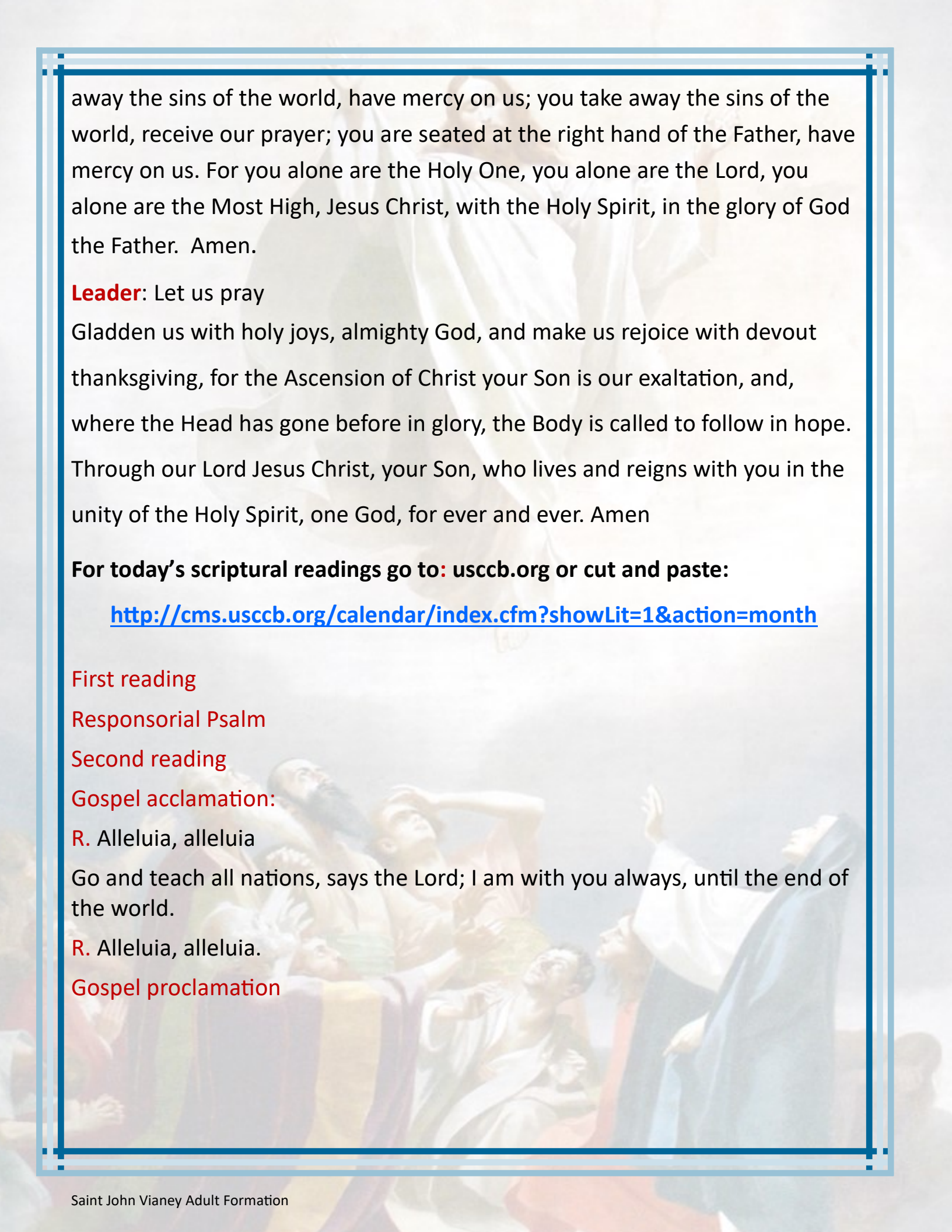
#### All: *The Confiteor*

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Leader:** In acknowledgement and thanksgiving for God's mercy we offer our praise:

#### *The Gloria*

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God the almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take



away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray

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

**For today's scriptural readings go to: [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) or cut and paste:**

<http://cms.usccb.org/calendar/index.cfm?showLit=1&action=month>

**First reading**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Second reading**

**Gospel acclamation:**

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel proclamation**

**Having listened to God's word in these passages from Holy Scripture we now profess our faith in all that He has revealed:**

**All—Profession of Faith:**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered  
death and was buried, and rose  
again on the third day in accord-  
ance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is  
seated at the right hand of the  
Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son,

Who with the Father and the Son is  
adored and glorified, who has spoken  
through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins and I look  
forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## Prayers of the Faithful—Leader

**Introduction:** With faith in Jesus' promise to be with us always we offer our prayers:

**Intentions:** That common sense, justice and fairness, prevail in plans to financially support the needy; that wisdom inform the policies of safety; and decency mark all political debates and decisions; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Church, empowered by the Spirit, will faithfully give witness to the Gospel and continue Christ's mission of bringing hope and healing; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who feel alone and marginalized will experience God's consolation and presence in their homes and welcome efforts to connect them to the community of faith; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That through the words of Jesus and the example of the early disciples we may discover who we are called to be and thus fortified lead others to come to know the risen Lord; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who are fearful or anxious will remember God's message of "Fear not" and that he is with them always and allow him to calm their spirits and sustain their hope; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That God's healing Spirit will ease the suffering of the sick and that those who have died rest in the peace of Christ; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Prayer:** Loving God, we ask you to embrace our world with tenderness, and in this time of restoration, bring us out of anxiety to hope, from isolation to community, and from confusion to faith. For this and all the prayers we have offered we ask through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** In the love of Christ, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Leader: Communion Antiphon:** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

## **All—Spiritual Communion:**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

## **Leader: 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. **Response:** Amen.

## **Blessing—making the sign of the cross:**

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

**Response:** Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

In most Dioceses Ascension Thursday is transferred to the Sunday before Pentecost so, today is Ascension Sunday on which we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord!

We can prepare to celebrate the Eucharist firstly by praying that we delight in being believers. We pray to live as women and men who trust the spiritual gifts we received first in Baptism and were strengthened through Confirmation. We pray in the freedom of knowing who we are: gifts from God at this time and in this place.

We can pray as well with the quiet faith and presence of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whom we have been honoring throughout this month of May; Mary, whose actions spoke louder than her words. We believe she is present in our “upper room” when we gather as Church. Her words are not recorded at Jesus’ death nor his Resurrection but her actions tell us she remained faithful as she watched what she could not change. We too can pray for that same trusting of the mysteries.

The Acts of the Apostles is the scriptural history of the Holy Spirit’s working in the early Church. We read in verses 12-14, which follow today’s proclaimed passages, that the eleven returned to Jerusalem to pray: the ones who had watched Jesus ascend. We read their names and then the name of Mary with whom they gathered to pray in the “upper room.” That is all we read but there is much more.

There they all are in the former room of fear-and-hiding. Now they gather together in faith-and-finding. In the following verses they have to get down to busyness and business. They will have to find a successor to their fallen fellow-apostle, Judas Iscariot. That is in the future. We read that the group gathered together in faith; men and women, for the first time without Jesus’ physical presence. Their prayer is not of terror but of hope.

Imagine this scene. They are all of the Jewish tradition which was strictly a male-first structure. So the men arrive back from Mount Olivet and there is Mary with other women waiting for them. Peter who knows his fragile past looks at Mary whose faithful past Peter also knows. So does Peter clear his throat and begin, as if nothing had happened, “Let us pray?” Mary had been ordained by the Holy Spirit to present the body and person of Jesus to the world. Not a cultic priest, Mary presided at the first sharing of his body by allowing him to share her body. Does Peter invite her to lead the prayers? Probably not, because that was not the tradition. This is such a tender time for them all.

Mary, Peter, the early Church, and you and I, are the beneficiaries of the goodness of God freely offered but not always received. Mary is still giving us the nod which again means, “Let us pray.” She who suffered for her faith still welcomes us to the community gathered together to receive Christ’s continuous prayer over us in the Eucharist.

\*What is the Ascension?

Historically it was an event within the life of Jesus and the early church and is now a feast-day for Christians, one that links Easter to Pentecost. But it is more than an historical event, it is at once a theology, a spirituality, and an insight to better sort out the paradoxical interplay between life and death, presence and absence, love and loss.

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