

Prayer of the Church
The Ascension of Our Lord
21 May 2023

O Lord, Your Son has ascended to sit at Your right hand until You make all enemies His footstool. Fix our eyes on Him, ruling in the midst of His enemies, that we may have no fear of them but abide in His peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, You have put all things under Jesus' feet and given Him as head to the Church. Have mercy on the congregations where You gather Your people. Give Your pastors wisdom and insight to hold fast to the message of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Open the ears of all who hear, that we may rejoice to be Christ's Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of glory, You raised Your Son from the dead and established Him at Your right hand to give us a place in Your eternal household. Bless our homes as we await the resurrection. Be the companion and consolation of those who live in solitude. Strengthen husbands and wives, that their love would exemplify the love between Christ and His Church. Bless parents and children as they gather around Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You have raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. Guide all such authorities on earth, that they would govern wisely, operate with integrity and maintain peace after Your good pleasure. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Lord, You give us great gifts for the relief of pain and for the healing of many. Be with those who serve us in the medical arts, those who search for medicines and cures for our afflictions, those who care for the sick in their illness, and those who offer comfort while waiting with the dying. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son sits at Your right hand, yet He visits us with His body and blood in the Sacrament. Preserve Your people from a casual dismissal of this miracle, and give them repentant hearts to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**