

ASCENSION 1

THE COLLECT

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 Ghost 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 same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.



1. What is God here called?
A. The _____ of _____ (Psalm 24:7)
2. Whom has He exalted unto his kingdom in heaven?
A. His only Son _____ (Acts 5:31)
3. How had God exalted him?
A. With great _____ (Philippians 2:9)
4. How do we beseech Him not to leave us?
A. C _____ (Psalm 27:9)
5. Whom do we beseech Him to send to comfort us?
A. The _____, which is the Holy Ghost (John 14:26)
6. Where will He exalt us to?
A. To the _____ place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before. (John 14:3)

INTRODUCTION:

This past Thursday we celebrated the festival of Ascension Day, when our Lord ascends into heaven. We are now in the season of Ascension, which lasts only ten days and ends next Sunday on Whitsun Day (Pentecost). How was the brand new church occupied after Christ's ascension until the day of Pentecost? If you read Acts 1:14, you will find that they devoted themselves to P_____.

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I. A PATTERN OF PRAYER.

1. **Christ had been praying** and His disciples wanted to pray as He did. He must have been pleased and cheered with their request.
2. **He taught them the Lord's Prayer**, which is found twice in the gospels. What do we learn from it? To go to God with confidence—as our *Father*—with *reverence*, for He is in heaven; with *unselfishness*, for it is we, us, our—I has no place in it. To put God first—His name, His kingdom, His will—before our own wants. Then for ourselves we learn that the things we most need are provision, pardon, and protection.

II. A PARABLE OF PRAYER.

1. **We are tempted to give up.** So Christ teaches us to persevere. Where else does He teach the same lesson? Read St. Luke 18:1-9. Thus He teaches the same lesson by two parables—the friend at midnight, and the unjust judge. He does not mean that God is like an unwilling friend, or an unjust judge: rather this—if an unwilling friend or an unjust judge can be prevailed on by perseverance, how much more can God, Who is not only a willing friend and a righteous judge, but also a loving father?

III. A PROMISE TO PRAYER.

1. **Prayer is like asking for a gift**, seeking for a treasure, knocking at a door. Christ promises that if we ask for God's gifts we shall receive, if we seek for heavenly treasure we shall find, if we knock at the door of heaven it will be opened.

IV. A PERSUASION TO PRAYER.

1. **We pray to One Who is willing to give**—like a father—not worse but better than we ask.
2. **We are to pray for a blessing which God wants to give**, and promises to give, *i.e.* the Holy Spirit. So here is a little prayer which God is bound to grant, “O God, give me Thy Holy Spirit more and more for Jesus Christ's sake.” We should add this to our daily prayers, especially during the ten days from Ascension to Whitsun Day, and also in the weeks before Confirmation.



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