

**HT Intercessions**  
**Ascensiontide 20 May 2012**

*“Sing to the Lord, who has ascended into heaven,  
our Christ, and our King”*

**Risen and Ascended Lord**, as we stand gazing upwards into heaven, bring us back down to earth. We bring our prayers and petitions before you, in the sure faith that you will hear them and answer them, as appropriate to our needs.

We pray for the continuing witness of Christians world-wide, and in particular for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide our Archbishops, our Bishops, our team clergy, and all those who support them. In the power of the Holy Spirit, as they interpret the scriptures to us, may they understand that each one of us, seeks **You** in our own way; and may they work to unite a Church, torn apart by dissensions, misunderstandings and bigotry.

Bless the work of the leaders of the forth-coming **Faith Week**; may their efforts speak to the hearts and minds of the people of our area.

*“Lord lift our hearts to you, that we may be filled with your ascended joy  
and unity, which is beyond all division.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.**  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Risen and Ascended Lord**, we pray for our Queen Elizabeth as Supreme **Governor** of this Church of England, as she visits her subjects around the Country; and for her peers and ministers in both Houses of her Parliament. And at this time, we pray for all those who have recently been elected, to administer our **local** governments. We ask that they will put aside personal ambition, and concentrate their wills for the good of all.

We ask you Lord, to bless our neighbours, and those in our community, who are victims of the current financial climate: those struggling to feed their families, and to pay their bills; those vainly seeking work; the cold and lonely; the depressed and the suicidal.

*“Lord lift **our** hearts in true love, and generous charity, to find ways to support our neighbours in need.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.  
Hear our prayer.**

**Risen and Ascended Lord**, help us, lest we forget those thousands of babies, children and adults around your World, who die every day, from dis-ease, and lack of shelter, food and water.

Help us not to forget the thousands of families displaced from their homes, lands and countries, by wars and the greed of others.

Bless the work of Christian Aid, and the other charities dedicated to support, and the alleviation of suffering.

Help us to *understand* more clearly, the desperate plight of refugees and asylum seekers, before we fall into the trap of making uninformed value judgements, and reckless statements and suggestions.

Give grace and guidance to the leaders of the G8 Countries, as they meet at Camp David, to discuss the problems of North Korea, Syria and Iran. May they find solutions to the *global* financial problems, and specifically the crises in Greece and Spain.

*“Lord, in your ascended might, move the hearts of those in power, that they may **respect** mankind, whom you have created in your own image.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.  
Hear our prayer.**

**Risen and Ascended Lord**, we pray, for ourselves and for those we love: free us from prejudice and fear, and deepen our love and understanding. Within our own families, bless our parents and our children, our grandchildren and our closest friends; give us patience and empathy, save us from petty jealousies, heal our divisions, and grant us your peace.

We remember:

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and ask you to pour your Holy Spirit into their lives, to support and strengthen them in their troubles. May they feel the power of your ascended presence in their lives

We pray for the souls of the departed, ascended *with* You into heaven. (Particularly today we pray for \_\_\_\_\_)  
Grant peace to those who grieve for a death, but rejoice for a life.

**(SILENCE)**

*“O God our Father,  
Make us joyful in the Ascension of your son Jesus Christ,  
May we follow Him into that new creation,  
For His Ascension, is our glory, and our hope.”*

**Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers,  
For the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**