Call to Worship

Leader: It's Ascension Day, the day we celebrate Jesus' return to God, forty days after Easter. The scriptures say that the disciples were filled with joy when Jesus was taken up into heaven. After that, they spent all their time in the temple giving thanks to God.

People: They must not have had to work for a corporation! Or punch a time clock!

Leader: In fact, times are very different but the image of Jesus returning to God is essential for our faith.

People: He didn't stay dead and buried! He returned to life and to God!

Leader: In all of our texts for today, there is reference to Jesus' return to the divine home.

People: With Jesus absent, people looked forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are thankful for the stories of Jesus' ascension to heaven, and we anticipate a fresh presence of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving:
God of Heaven and Earth — we are glad you are our God. We find ourselves turning to you like disciples through the ages; we experience you as loving and dependable.

We celebrate Jesus' ascension to heavenly places.

In his absence, we expect a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Speak through us so that the kingdom of God Jesus spoke of comes to our town. Amen.

I believe in God
    the Father Almighty,
    maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ
    his only Son our Lord:
  who was conceived by the
    Holy Spirit,
    born of the Virgin Mary,
    suffered under Pontius Pilate,
    was crucified, dead,
      and buried;

the third day he rose
   from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
   and sitteth at the right hand
   of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to
   judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
  the holy catholic church,
  the communion of saints,
  the forgiveness of sins,
  the resurrection of the body,
  and the life everlasting. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.