

Multicultural Worship Resources to Celebrate the Ascended Christ

How to Use These Resources

Christ is risen, ascended and reigning in glory! Let's celebrate this in ways suitable for intercultural churches! These suggested resources can be used for any service, but especially for celebrating the ascension of Jesus, a vision for a global and intercultural Church, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. If your church observes the Church Year, Ascension Day falls on Thursday May 14, 2026, or you can celebrate it on Sunday May 17. These resources and song suggestions are diverse and more numerous than for any single service. Simply choose those that are applicable to your congregation and particular service.

Call To Worship

Note: the **words in bold** can be read together, possibly accentuated with a gentle drumbeat, such as a *djembe*, *cajon*, *darbuka*, *congas*, *bodhrán*, or other hand drum. The final line could also be read in 2 or more languages.

In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.
3 Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(Isaiah 2:2–3, 5 NIV)

Scripture Readings

For multilingual worship, you could arrange for a bilingual Scripture reading. For a sense of flow and engagement, try reading 1-2 verses in each language at a time.

The theme of the Ascension is so rich that it is advisable to include a Psalm, and Old Testament reading, and a New Testament reading. Revised Common Lectionary readings for Ascension Day are marked with an asterix (•).

Bible Passages Suitable for the Ascension

- a. Acts 1:1–11*, or Luke 24:44–53* (Jesus ascends into heaven).*
- b. Acts 2:32–36 (Peter proclaims the ascended Christ).
- c. Daniel 7:13–14 (the Son of Man received into heaven on his ascension).
- d. Psalms 24; 47*; 93*; 101 (Psalms to celebrate Christ's ascension).
- e. Ephesians 4:1–13 (The Church's unity and diversity of gifts).
- f. Hebrews 1:1–4, 8–9 (God has spoken through his Son, now at his right hand).
- g. Revelation 1:12–18 (the glorified Jesus stands among the churches).

Statements of Faith Available in Different Languages

On Ascension Day or Ascension Sunday, it is good to declare what we believe!

1. Easter Acclamation¹

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! (English)

Christ est mort, Christ est ressuscité, Christ reviendra (French)

Kristi ti kú, Kristi ti jindem, Kristi má padá wā (Yoruba)

2. The Creeds (We Believe)

For the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed in various languages consult Songs2Serve.² Another source is: "The Apostles' Creed in Multiple Languages."³ Both creeds help us publicly affirm our belief in the ascended and reigning Christ.

¹ With thanks to Malcolm Patten for this trilingual setting, in *Leading a Multi-Cultural Church* (Abingdon: SPCK, 2016), 89.

² Song2Serve, 2024, "Resources–Intercultural Worship Service," accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://songs2serve.eu/intercultural-worship-service/>

³ Harry Weimar, "The Apostles' Creed in Multiple Languages," accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.knowingjesuschrist.com/the-apostles-creed>

3. The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

For the Lord's Prayer in various languages, consult Songs2Serve.⁴

Closing Sentences

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Colossians 3:1–4, 17)

Or ...

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:9–11, NIV)

⁴ Song2Serve, 2024, "Resources–Intercultural Worship Service," accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://songs2serve.eu/intercultural-worship-service/>

Multicultural and Multilingual Songs (Contemporary)

For translations of well-known contemporary English-language songs, consult the Songs2Serve website under “Resources–Multilingual Songs.”⁵ The multicultural and multilingual songs below are from a wide range of sources. Lists are in alphabetical order.

1. Psalm 24 (excerpts)

- a. Lift Up Your Heads (Nigeria; in English)⁶
- b. Yeshu Masiki Ki Jai (“Who is the King of Glory?” – Hindi, English)⁷

2. Christ as Exalted King

- a. Build Your Kingdom Here (Rend Collective)
- b. Great Things (“King of Kings,” by Wikham)
- c. Holy Forever (Tomlin; chorus can be sung in several languages)
- d. How Great is Our God (Tomlin; chorus can be sung in several languages)
- e. *Leul Din Iuda* (“Lion of Judah” – Romanian and English)⁸
- f. Praise the Lord, My Soul (Cantonese, Mandarin, English)⁹
- g. *Shalom* (English, Somali, Nepali, Arabic)¹⁰
- h. *Teu Reino* (“Your Kingdom” – Portuguese and English)¹¹

3. Holy Spirit

- a. *Roohol Ghodos* (“Holy Spirit” – Persian and English)¹²
- b. *Uthando* (South Africa: “Come Holy Spirit” – English and Zulu)¹³

⁵ Songs2Serve, “Resources,” <https://songs2serve.eu/resources-2>, accessed Mar 11, 2026.

⁶ Nathaniel Bassej Main, “Lift Up Your Heads (Psalm 24),” accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CU6eujoz7Y>.

⁷ Arts Release, “Yeshu Masih Ki Jai (Global Resonance Band with lyrics),” accessed Mar 11, 2026, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M_G6Bbu6Qw

⁸ Arts Release, “Resonance (August 2023) at European Conference,” accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVzRHo9xivU>.

⁹ Songs2Serve, *Songs*, “Praise the Lord My Soul,” accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://songs2serve.eu/songs/praise-the-lord-my-soul>

¹⁰ Proskuneo Ministries, “Shalom // “ONE” 2018 Proskuneo Album,” accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.proskuneo.org/music/v/shalom>.

¹¹ Arts Release, “Teu Reino (Portuguese - Resonance North Band),” accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2uPwIMnPb4>.

¹² Arts Release, “Roohol Ghodos (Resonance North Band),” accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzgUpz34Rzk>.

4. Global and Intercultural Church

- a. Tribes (Philippines: Tagalog, Spanish, English)¹⁴
- b. I have seen the Future (Nigeria; English, Yoruba, French, Hindi, Spanish)¹⁵

English-Original Ascension-Related Hymns and Songs

Most of the following were composed in English and are well-loved in different churches and traditions. Some can be sourced in other languages. For available versions check your church or denomination's song resources and hymnbooks. Audio examples of most of these titles can be found on well-established music streaming platforms.

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus! (William Chatterton Dix)
All Hail the power of Jesus' Name! (Edward Perronet)
At the Name of Jesus (Caroline Maria Noel)
Beautiful Saviour (Stuart Townend)
Before the Throne of God Above (Charitie L. De Chenez)
Blessing and Honour (Garry Sadler and Jamie Harvill)
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire (Charles Wesley)
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire (9th century, transl. John Cosin)
He is Exalted (Twila Paris)
He is Lord (Norman Warren)
Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (Isaac Watts)
Join All the Glorious Names (Isaac Watts)
O Thou, Who Camest From Above (Charles Wesley)
Rejoice! the Lord is King (Charles Wesley)
Shine, Jesus, Shine (Graham Kendrick)

¹³ World Wide Technology, "Come Holy Spirit Uthando" Lyric Video LIVE at LIV, accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.wwt.com/video/come-holy-spirit-uthando-lyric-video-live-at-liv>.

¹⁴ Victory Worship, "Victory Worship - Tribes (Official Music Video)," accessed Mar 11, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66H4mLGgZ54>.

¹⁵ The Praise Court, "I have seen the Future Dunsin Oyekan ft Naomi Raine, Sheldon Bangera, Matt Marvane, Joseph Espinoza," accessed March 11, 2026, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_3voPKWsl0.

Selected QR Codes

Songs2Serve Website



Songs2Serve Multilingual Songs



Apostles' Creed (Wiemar)



Lift Up Your Heads (Nigeria: Bassey)



Yeshu Masihi-ki Jai (Urdu: Evans; Resonance)



Leul Din Iuda (Romania: Tranca; Resonance)



Praise the Lord O My Soul (Cantonese/Mandarin: Tang)



Shalom (Multilingual: Proskuneo)



Teu Reino (Brazil: Bonfim; Resonance)



Roohol Ghodos (Persia: Hovsepian; Resonance)



Uthando/Come Holy Spirit (South Africa: Zulu)



Tribes (Philippines: Tagalog/Spanish: Victory Worship)



I have Seen the Future (Nigeria; Multilingual: Oyekan)

