



# **Ascension Day**

# Service of Holy Communion

# **Thursday 29 May 2025 | 7pm**

# **TODAY'S SERVICE**

SUNG EUCHARIST

CELEBRANT & PREACHER BP PETER WATSON

ORGANIST & CANTOR GLENN AMER

SETTING DUDMAN



#### **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

#### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Please stand

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

- Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth: Hast thou not seen All that is needful hath been Granted in what he ordaineth?
- Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee; Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee; Ponder anew All the Almighty can do, He who with love doth befriend thee.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him! Let the Amen Sound from his people again: Gladly for ay we adore him.

Joachim Neander, 1650 - 80

Tune: Lobe Den Herren

The Celebrant welcomes the people with a greeting

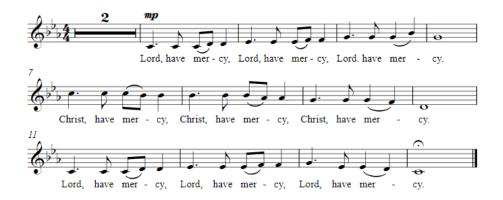
Christ is risen. Alleluia.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

# Let us pray

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### KYRIE ELEISON



#### THE CONFESSION

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

Christ has entered heaven itself, there to appear before God on our behalf.

#### Silence

Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins to the God of grace.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in
what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in
newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: 

pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### Celebrant

God of majesty,

you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth

as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ,

the firstborn from the dead,

who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen**.

#### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING

# A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>6</sup> Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'7 He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven. will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

Hear the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



- The Lord | said to | my lord:

  'sit at my right hand until I | make your | enemies your | footstool.'
- The lord commits to you the sceptre | of your | power: reign from | Zion in the | midst of your | enemies.
- Noble are you from the day of your birth upon the | holy | hill: radiant are you even from the womb in the | morning | dew of your | youth.
- The lord has sworn and will | not turn | back: 'you are a priest for ever after the | order | of Mel|chizedek.'
- The king shall stand at your right | hand O | Lord: and shatter | kings in the | day of his | wrath.
- Glorious in majesty he shall judge a|mong the | nations: and shatter heads | over a | wide | land.
- He shall slake his thirst from the brook be|side the | way: therefore shall | he lift | up his | head.

#### SECOND READING

# A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Hear the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Cantor

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus said 'It is written that the Christ should suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day.'

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

# A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 24:44 - 53



He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



#### **SERMON**

HYMN Tune: Darwall

#### Please stand

Rejoice, the Lord is King,
 Your Lord and King adore;
 Mortals, give thanks and sing,
 And triumph evermore:

Refrain:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

- Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
   The God of truth and love;
   When he had purged our stains,
   He took his seat above: [Refrain]
- His kingdom cannot fail;
   He rules o'er earth and heaven;
   The keys of death and hell
   Are to our Jesus given: [Refrain]
- He sits at God's right hand
   Till all his foes submit,
   And bow to his command,
   And fall beneath his feet: [Refrain]

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

#### THE NICENE CREED

Senior Server

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, the Father,
the almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

**¥**and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All kneel/sit

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Periods of silence may be briefly kept for personal prayer.

Each petition ends with this response:

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen
For the kingdom, the power.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

#### PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

All stand

Hear these words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ.

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'.

Matthew 11:28

'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.'

John 3:16

The apostle Paul said: 'Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'.

1 Timothy 1:15

The apostle John said: 'If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.'

1 John 2:1–2

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

Celebrant

We are the body of Christ.

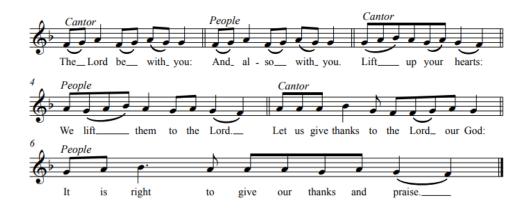
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet those immediately around them with the words, "Peace be with you" "And also with you".

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



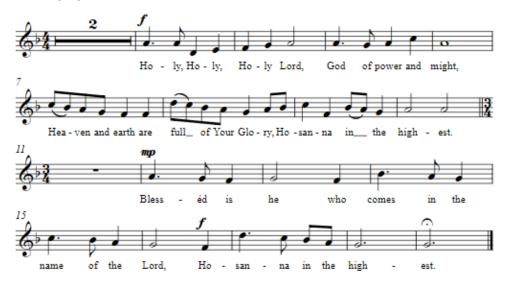
#### Celebrant

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, He offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. You have highly exalted him, and given him the name that is above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:



And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.



Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring with us all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:



# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

#### **AGNUS DEI**



#### INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

As the sacrament is received the communicant responds. Amen.

All baptised Christians who love and serve the Lord Jesus are welcome to join in the sharing of Holy Communion. If you are not yet ready to receive Communion, we encourage you to come forward for a prayer of blessing. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by holding your hands behind your back.

After receiving communion, the congregation sits or kneels. Silence for prayerful reflection may be kept.

## **SENTENCE**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

God of glory, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to preach the gospel of the kingdom. Strengthen us who share this meal to continue his mission by proclaiming the gospel and to live transformed lives in the light of it.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

#### GOD'S BLESSING

#### Celebrant

Christ our exalted king pour upon you his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, ★ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

Tune: Miles Lane

## DISMISSAL

Senior Server

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Please stand

- All hail the power of Jesu's name;
   Let angels prostrate fall;
   Bring forth the royal diadem
   To crown him Lord of all.
- Crown him, ye morning stars of light,
   Who fixed this floating ball;
   Now hail the Strength of Israel's might,
   And crown him Lord of all.

- Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed of the fall, Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
- 4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall, Go spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him Lord of all.
- Let every tribe and every tongue
   To him their hearts enthral,
   Lift high the universal song,
   And crown him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet, 1726 - 92

The sanctuary party leaves and the congregation sits.

#### ORGAN POSTLUDE

The sanctuary party leaves and the congregation sits. As a courtesy to those who remain in the church to listen to the organ postlude in its entirety, you are encouraged to enjoy conversation and fellowship outside the building.

#### **OFFERTORY**

On the table at the entrance to the church building there is a basket for financial gifts, and also an electronic card reader to accept donations by credit or debit card.

