

# Ascension Day



May 13, 2021

**THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY**  
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE



Wide Open Doors    Wide Open Hearts

# The Service of Holy Communion, Rite II

## Ascension Day

**Prelude** Hymnum canamus gloriae

**Gerald Near**

**Entrance Hymn**

*Hail the day that sees him rise,*

**Hymnal 214**

*Llanfair*

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 #3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 See! he shows the prints of love; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 bless - ings on his Church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

## Easter Acclamation

Leader Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## The Collect for Purity

Leader Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

## Song of Praise

## Festival Canticle


*Antiphon*



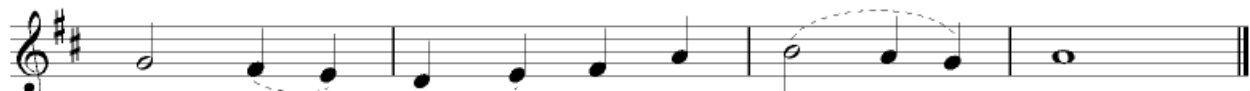
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



1 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]  
2 God and the Lamb for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]  
3 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

*Final Antiphon*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## The Collect of the Day

Leader The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.

Leader Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## The First Reading

**Acts 1:1-11**

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Acts

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive

power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
***People*** **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm 47

T. Tertius Noble



- 1 Clap your hands, / all you / peoples; \*  
shout to / God with a / cry of / joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most / High is to be / feared; \*  
he is the great / King over / all the / earth.
- 3 He subdues the / peoples / under us, \*  
and the / nations / under our / feet.
- 4 He chooses our in/heritance / for us, \*  
the pride of / Jacob / whom he / loves.
- 5 God has gone / up with a / shout, \*  
the / LORD with the / sound of the / ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to / God, sing / praises; \*  
sing / praises to our / King, sing / praises.
- 7 For God is King of / all the / earth; \*  
sing / praises with / all your / skill.
- 8 God reigns / over the / nations; \*  
God / sits upon his / holy / throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have / gathered to/gether \*  
with the / people of the / God of / Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth be/long to / God, \*  
and / he is / highly ex/alted.

Reader A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*Silence*

The Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord of life ascends  
Parker

Hymnal 222

1 Re - joice, the Lord of life a - scends  
2 No more his mor - tal form we see;  
3 He reigns, but with a love that shares  
4 He reigns in heaven un - til the hour

in tri - umph from earth's bat - tle - field:  
he reigns in - vis - i - ble but near:  
the trou - bles of our earth - ly life;  
when he, who once was cru - ci - fied,

his strife with hu - man ha - tred ends,  
for in the midst of two or three  
he takes up - on his heart the cares,  
shall come in all love's glo - rious power

as sin and death their con - quests yield.  
he makes his glo - rious pres - ence clear.  
the pain, and shame of hu - man strife.  
to rule the world for which he died.



Leader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**People Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Leader Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Leader The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*The Reverend Rachel Wenner Gardner*

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**The Nicene Creed**

All 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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, Form III**

*Reader* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***People* That we all may be one.**

*Reader* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***People* That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Reader* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***People* That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Reader* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***People* That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Reader* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***People* That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Reader* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***People* That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Reader* Give to the departed eternal rest.

***People* Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Reader* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***People* May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Reader* You are invited to share your own prayers at this time.

*Silence*

*Leader* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Leader* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen**

*Leader* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## **The Peace**

Leader The Peace of the Lord be always with you

**People And also with you.**

## **Offertory Sentence**

Leader I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, (Ephesians 1:17)

## **Offertory Anthem** *The Lord ascendeth up on high* **Michael Praetorius**

The Lord ascendeth up on high, the Lord hath triumphed gloriously, in power and might excelling; the grave and hell are captive led, lo! he returns, our glorious Head, to his eternal dwelling.

The heavens with joy receive their Lord, by saints, by angel hosts adored; O day of exultation! O earth, adore thy glorious King! His rising, his ascension sing with grateful adoration!

Our great High Priest hath gone before, upon his Church his grace to pour; and still his love he giveth. O may our hearts to him ascend; may all within us upward tend to him who ever liveth!

## **The Holy Communion**

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### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer A

Leader The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Leader* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## The Sanctus

**Ronald Arnatt**

*All*

*The Choir alone* *All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Leader* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All*        **Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

*Leader*    We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*All*        **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Leader* And now, as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Fraction Anthem

*Christ our Passover*

Owen Burdick

*Cantor* *Choir* *Congregation & Choir*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac - ri-ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the

feast. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Leader* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

**All** My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (*St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787*)



1 O Lord Most High, eter - nal King, by  
2 A - scend - ing to the Fa - ther's throne, thou  
3 Be thou our joy, O Might - y Lord, as  
4 O ris - en Christ, a - scend - ed Lord, all

thee re - deemed thy praise we sing. The bonds of  
claim'st the king - dom as thine own; and an - gels  
thou wilt be our great re - ward; let all our  
praise to thee let earth ac - cord, who art, while

death are burst by thee, and grace has won the  
won - der when they see how changed is our hu -  
glo - ry be in thee both now and through e -  
end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with

*After stanza 4*

vic - to - ry.  
man - i - ty.  
ter - ni - ty.  
Spi - rit, One. Al - le - lu - ia!

## Post Communion Prayer

*Leader* Let us pray.

**All** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



# The Blessing

*Leader* The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

# The Closing Hymn

*A hymn of glory let us sing,  
Dei gracias*

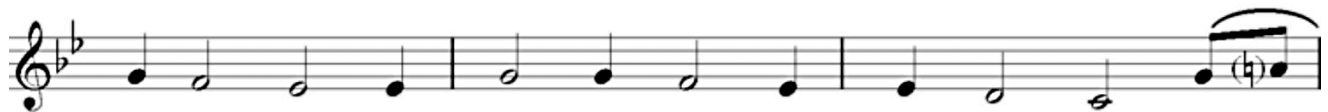
**Hymnal 218**



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing, new  
2 You are a pre - sent joy, O Lord; you  
3 O ris - en Christ, a - scend - ed Lord, all



hymns through-out the world shall ring; by a new way none  
will be ev - er our re - ward; and great the light in  
praise to you let earth ac - cord, who are, while end - less



ev - er trod Christ takes his place— the throne of God!  
you we see to guide us to e - ter - ni - ty. Al -  
a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spi - rit, One.



le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## The Dismissal

Leader Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude** Deo gracias

**Gerald Near**

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Peters, Aimee Pilgermayer, and Kelly Rubinsohn

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