



CELEBRATING THE

Feast of the ASCENSION

MAY 12, 2024

8:15AM | 10:30AM | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

336-227-4251 | INFO@HC-B.ORG | 320 EAST DAVIS ST. (27215) | PO BOX 1336 (27216) | BURLINGTON, NC

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS

Please complete the information card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF HOLY COMFORTER

Though very diverse politically and socially, care for each other and care deeply for how our faith is manifested in the community. We believe all people are equal in God's hand. Our nurturing congregation has an appreciation for diverse perspectives and opinions. We grow through a continually evolving and questioning discussion regarding our faith, God, and society. We welcome all, without reservation, into our Christian body to be part of a loving and sharing family.

WE CARE

Please call the church office at (336) 227-4251 if you or someone you know needs visitation, prayers or other assistance because of illness or inability to attend worship service.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, and experience God's presence within the church family, nurturing each other through a comprehensive parish program while affirming each other's individual ministries and responding to Jesus' continuing call to minister to others.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN | 494

Crown him with many crowns

Adesum

5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned a - bove;

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and
3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign, who
5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; crown

crown him to whom is given, the won - drous name of Love.

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
4 once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran - somed sin - ners slain, now
5 him the King, to whom is given, the won - drous name of Love. Crown

Crown him with man - y crowns, as thrones be - fore him

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu - man breast, and
3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing their
5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be - fore him fall, crown

fall, crown him, ye kings, for he is King of all.

1 hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
4 songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Let us pray. 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.**

GLORIA | S-278



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

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.*

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 93 | Dominus regnavit



The LORD is King; he has put on splen - did ap - par - el,



1 The Lord is King;

he has put on splendid apparel; *
the Lord has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure *
that it cannot be moved;

3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

6 Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
for ever and for evermore.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15-23

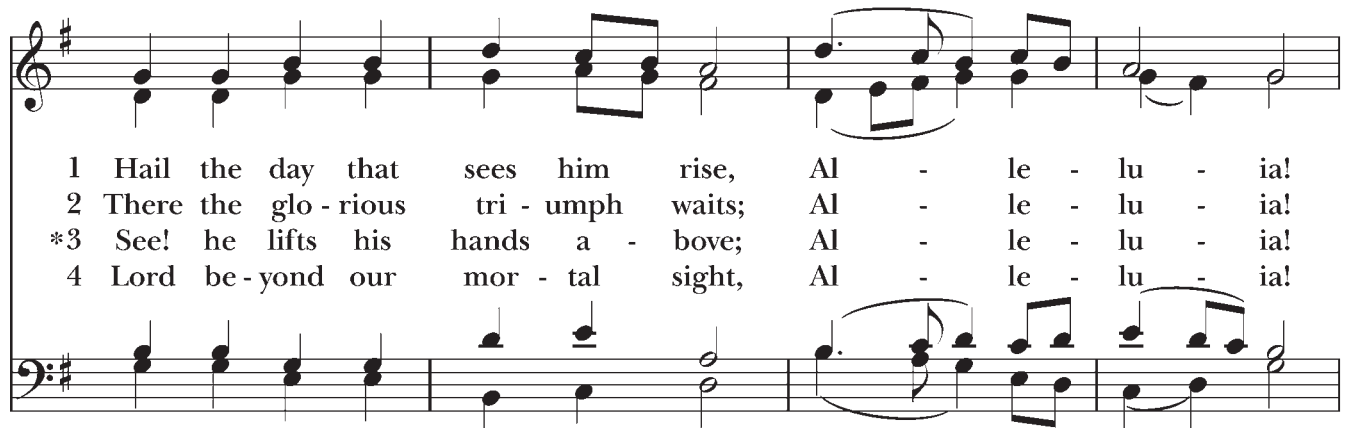
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to 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.

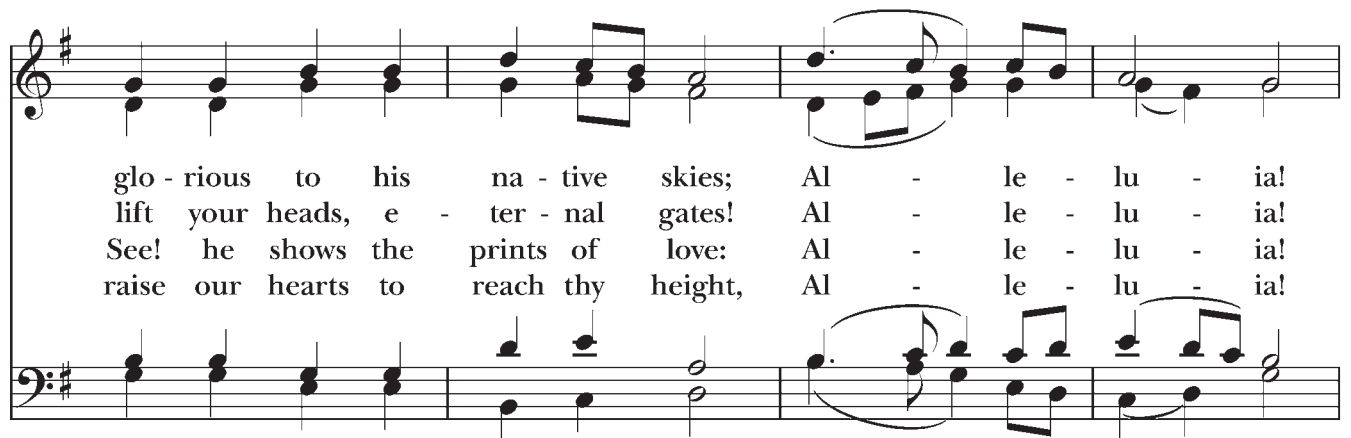
People *Thanks be to God.*

SEQUENCE HYMN | 214

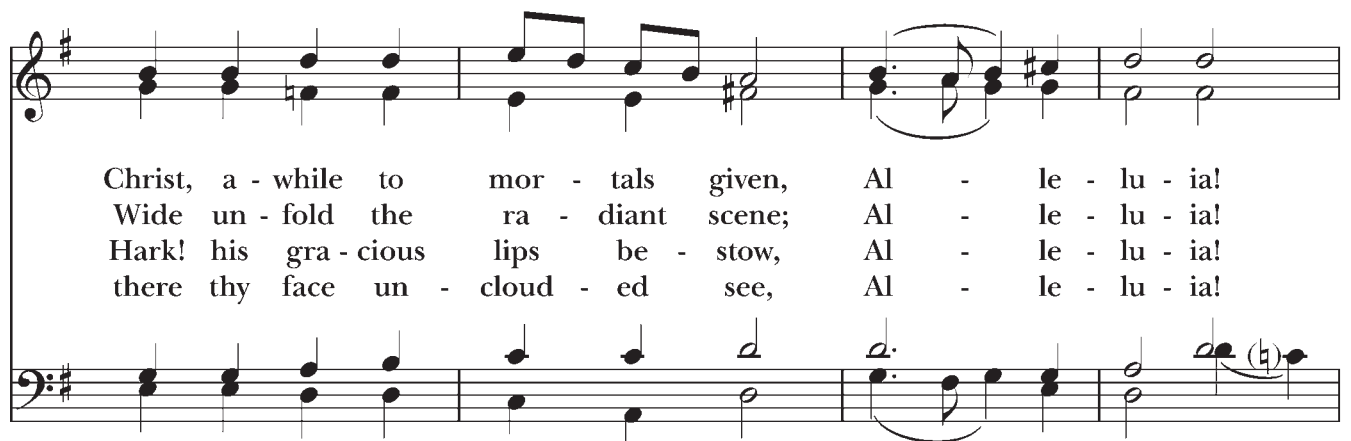
Hail the day that sees him rise



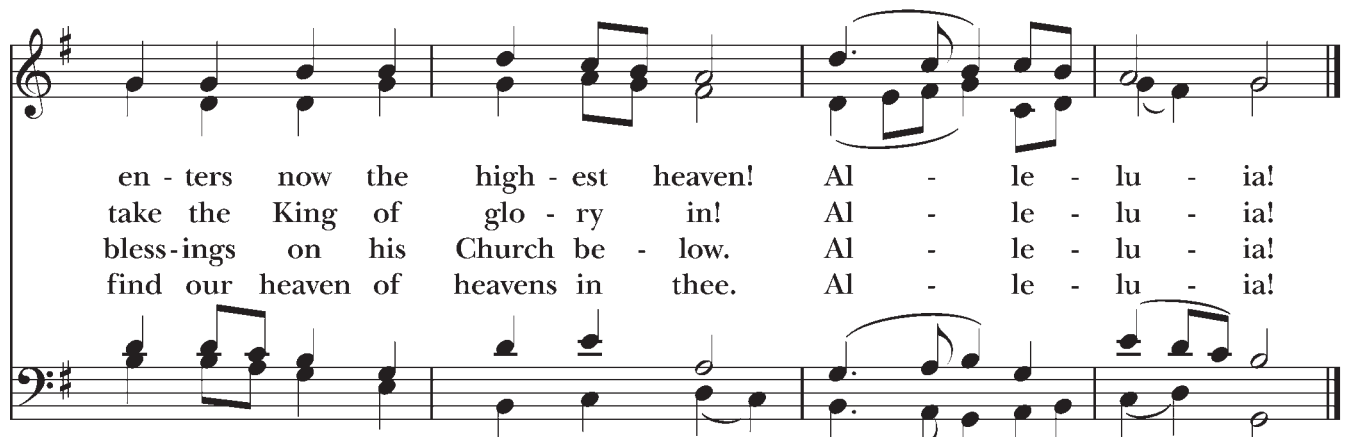
1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
*3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!



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!

The Officiant reads the Gospel, first saying

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

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.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

SERMON

The Rev. Greg Farrand

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

Officiant and People

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III | BCP 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

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 Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

People may add their own petitions. Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

A TRANSITION PRAYER FOR HOLY COMFORTER

Ever-present God,

You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.

We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.

We are discovering who we are and where we are going.

Transition is not a comfortable place.

May we continue to remind ourselves of the wonderful resources of this Church Sanctuary and a warm and welcoming congregation.

Be among us, we pray.

Calm our fears, save us from discouragement.

Encourage us to care for one another.

And help us to stay on course.

Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey toward calling a new Rector continues as a journey of trust, and faith and love. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands

Victor C. Johnson

O clap your hands all ye people.
Lift up your voice, sing alleluia!
Shout and rejoice, give praise to the Lord.
Sing with jubilation.
Let all the earth now cry out with joy,
And raise a hymn of exultation. Alleluia!

O clap your hands all ye people.
Lift up your voice, sing alleluia!
Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Break forth into jubilant song.
Let the mighty rivers clap their hands.
Let the mountains sing together with joy.

Clap your hands! Alleluia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharist Prayer D

BCP 372

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

SANCTUS | S-128



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

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your

creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising, from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops, and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Athanasius and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and People

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

*The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
The choir will immediately sing the fraction anthem.*

FRACTION ANTHEM | S-155



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Facing the people, the Officiant says the following Invitation.

The Gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the Altar may cross their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS

219 | The Lord ascendeth up on high



1 The Lord a - scend - eth up on high, the Lord hath tri - umphed
2 The heavens with joy re - ceive their Lord, by saints, by an - gel
3 Our great High Priest hath gone be - fore, up - on his Church his



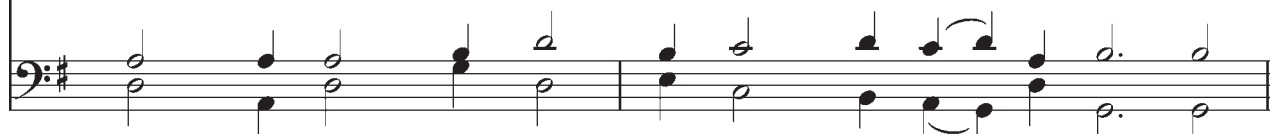
glo - rious - ly, in power and might ex - cel - ling;
hosts a - dored; O day of ex - ul - ta - tion!
grace to pour; and still his love he giv - eth.



the grave and hell are cap - tive led. Lo! he re -
O earth, a - dore thy glo - rious King! His ris - ing,
O may our hearts to him a - scend; may all with -



turns, our glo - rious Head, to his e - ter - nal dwell - ing.
his as - cen - sion sing with grate - ful a - dor - a - tion!
in us up - ward tend to him who ev - er liv - eth!



307 | Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor

1 Lord, en - throned in heaven - ly splen - dor, first - be -
 *2 Here our hum - blest hom - age pay we, here in
 *3 Though the low - liest form doth veil thee as of
 4 Pas - chal Lamb, thine of - fering, fi - nished once for
 5 Life - im - part - ing heaven - ly Man - na, smit - ten

1 got - ten from the dead. Thou a - lone, our strong de -
 2 lov - ing rev - erence bow; here for faith's dis - cern - ment
 3 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there thine an - gels
 4 all when thou wast slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 5 Rock with stream - ing side, heaven and earth with loud ho -

Al - le -

1 fend - er, lift - est up thy peo - ple's head.
 2 pray we, lest we fail to know thee now.
 3 hail thee, branch and flower of Jes - se's stem.
 4 min - ished shall for ev - er - more re - main.
 5 san - na wor - ship thee, the Lamb who died.

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

lu - ia!

1 Je - sus, true and liv - ing
 2 Thou art here, we ask not
 Al - le - lu - ia! 3 We in wor - ship join with
 4 Cleans - ing us from ev - ery
 5 Risen, a - scend - ed, glo - ri -

1 bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 2 how. Thou art here, we ask not how.
 3 them. We in wor - ship join with them.
 4 stain. Cleans - ing us from ev - ery stain.
 5 fied! Risen, a - scend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For those attending remotely.

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 receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL | 460

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

(Recessional lyrics on next page)

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

POSTLUDE

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
 *2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Hea - ven, thou on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the
 *5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the
 4 Lord of lords we own: Al - le - lu - ia! born of
 5 scep - ter his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how; though the
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Tish and Joe Murray in loving memory of Mary Burns Detgen and Noel Bussey Murray.

COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY

MAY 5 SERVICE COUNT 8:15AM 18 | 10AM 129 | REMOTE 35

COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS

MONDAY APRIL 29 - SUNDAY MAY 5

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| PLEGGED | \$ 1,610.00 |
| GENERAL FUND | \$ 1,205.00 |
| OTHER | \$ 622.79 |
| TOTAL | \$ 3,437.79 |

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Greg Farrand

LAY MINISTERS

VERGER

Steven Swanner

ORGANIST

Christin Baker

USHERS

8:15am - Paula Boyd
10:30am - Jim Romer, Micah Ash

READERS

8:15am - Curt Odem
10:30am - Jim McAdams, Pete Glidewell

ACOLYTES

8:15am - Curt Odem
10:30am - *CHALICISTS* - Martha Stewart, Steven Swanner
CRUCIFER - Max Fitzpatrick
TORCH BEARERS - Sam Fitzpatrick, Abigail Fitzpatrick
GOSPEL BEARER - Micah Ash

VESTRY COUNTERS

George Blaisdell, Julie Swanner

FLOWER GUILD

Sandy Gerow, Betty Brown, Julie Smith

ALTAR GUILD

Joanne McClusky, Janice Davis McAdams, Cheryl Miner,
Tish Murray, Susan Ryan, Julie Smith, Nancy Smith

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Nancy Slott, Mary Collins, Connie Griner,
Terri Stevens, Cherry Wrenn

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is celebrated 40 days after Easter Day, marking the conclusion of Jesus' post-surrection appearances and his ascension into heaven. This year, Ascension Day fell last Thursday, May 9.

Celebration of this holy day dates back at least to the late fourth century, and scriptural references to Jesus' ascension occur in both The Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of Mark:

"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 established 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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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'" (Acts 1:6-11, NRSV).

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19, NRSV).

The Ascension of Jesus is also professed in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father" (Book of Common Prayer, pp.120, 358).

COLLECT FOR ASCENSION DAY

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 (Book of Common Prayer, p. 226).

*The Ascension. Hans Suss von Kulmbach, 1513.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY*



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