



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

May 21, 2023



ASCENSION

Day

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 or email Rev. George Silides (gsilides@hc-b.org) 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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | 494

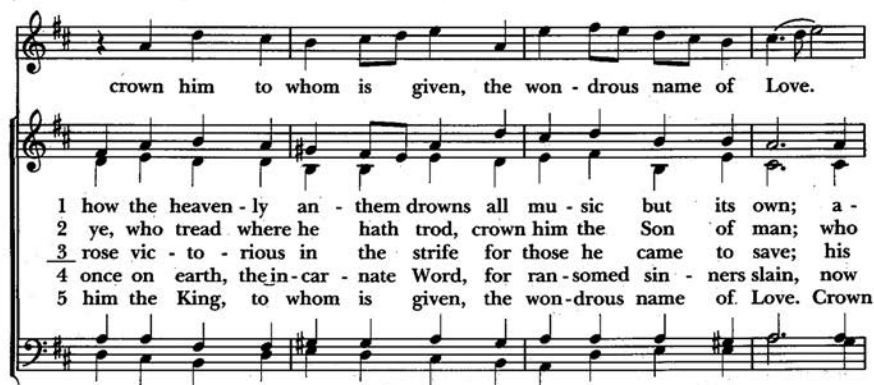
Crown him with many crowns

Descant



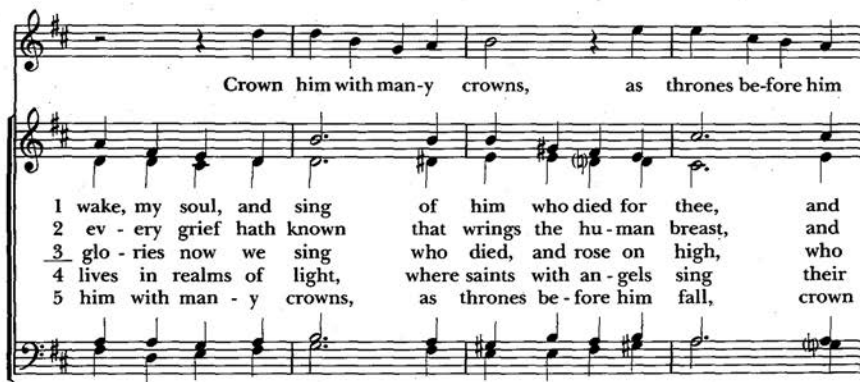
5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned a - bove;

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



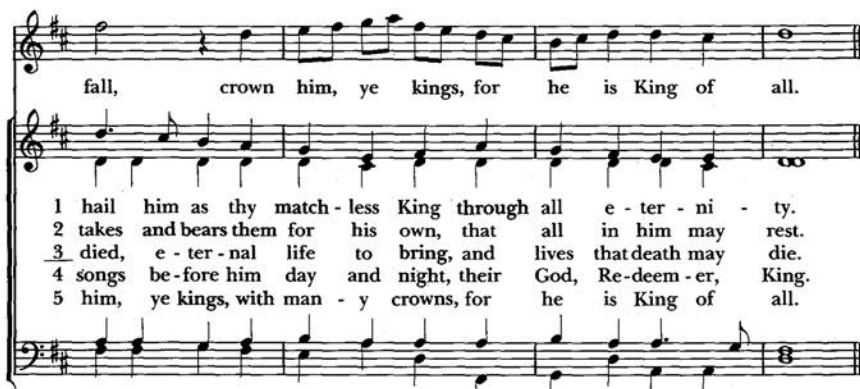
crown him to whom is given, the won - drous name of Love.

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

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.**

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."

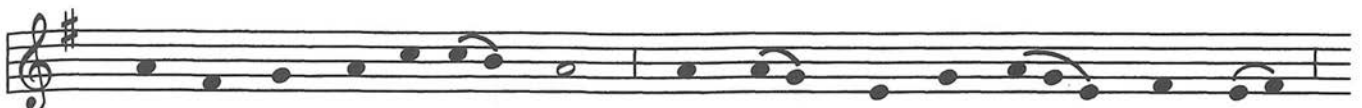
So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will 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 47: 1-10

Omnes gentes, plaudite



God is King of all the earth; sing prais - es with all your skill,



hal - le - lu - jah.

- 1 Cläp yöur hands, áll you péoples; *
shout to Gód with a crý of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most Hígh is tó be feared; *
he is the great King óver áll the earth.
- 3 He subdues the péoples únder us, *
and the nations únder óur feet.
- 4 He chooses our inhéritance fór us, *
the pride of Jácob whóm he loves.
- 5 God has gone úp with á shout, *
the Lord with the sóund of the rám's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to Gód, sing práises; *
sing praises to our Kíng, sing práises.
- 7 For God is Kíng of áll the earth; *
sing práises with áll your skill.
- 8 God reigns óver the nátions; *
God sits upón his hólý throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gáthered tógether *
with the people of the Gód of Ábraham.
- 10 The rulers of the éarth belóng to God, *
and he is highly exálted.

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.

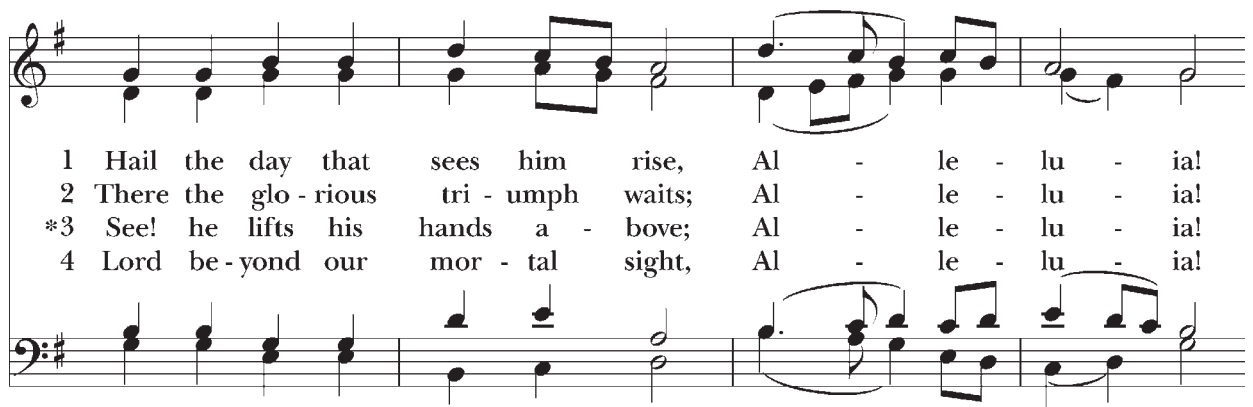
Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

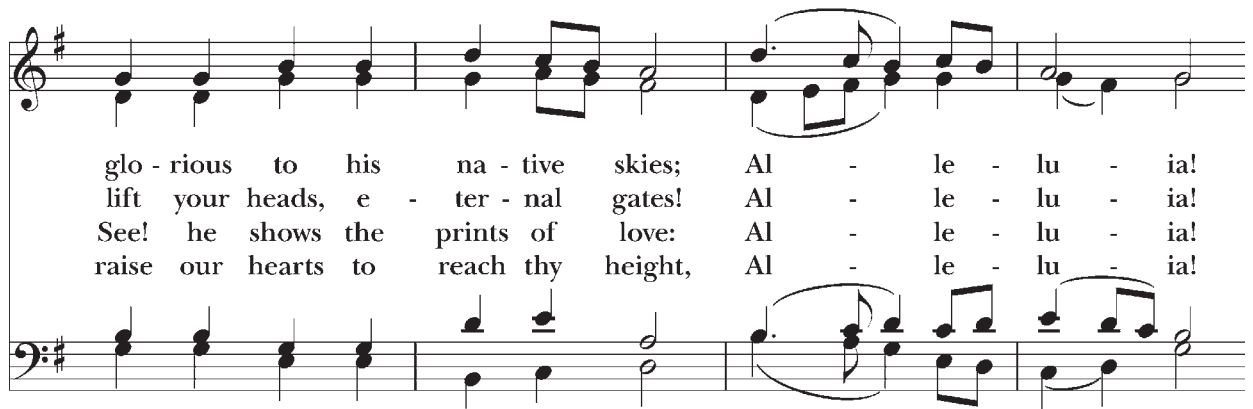
SEQUENCE HYMN | 214

Hail the day that sees him rise

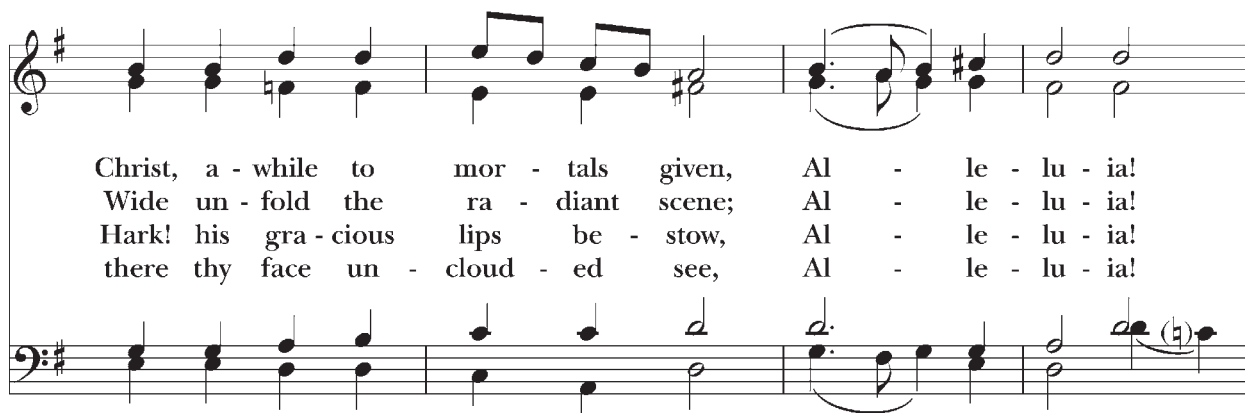
(Sequence hymn lyrics on next page)



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
People**

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. George C. Silides

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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 II | BCP 385

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael our presiding Bishop, and Sam and Jennifer our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for _____.

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [Especially _____whom we remember today].

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Officiant and People

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.

Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

ASCENSION ANTHEM

People, Clap Your Hands

Robert J. Powell

People, clap your hands, all who fear the Lord.
On this happy day, all with one accord;
praise in solemn song, fill the arching sky,
Yahweh, Almighty God, the one most high.
With his voice alone does he swiftly make
great kings on their thrones, trembling, surely quake.

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there;
where my soul in joyful duty waits on him who answers prayer.
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light and grace.

People, see him now, Holy God is here;
so to honor him, worship and revere.
We approach his throne, everlasting King;
Sing, then, his bounties great let all now sing!
With faithful hearts we praise praise the immortal one,
Spirit in unity, Father, and the Son.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharist Prayer C

BCP 369

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant	God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People	Glory to you for ever and ever.
Celebrant	At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People	By your will they were created and have their being.
Celebrant	From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People	Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
Celebrant	Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
People	By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.
Celebrant	And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Celebrant Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and

not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.

The choir will immediately sing the fraction anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM | S-155



Facing the people, the Officiant says the following Invitation.
The Gifts of God for you, who are also gifts of God.

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

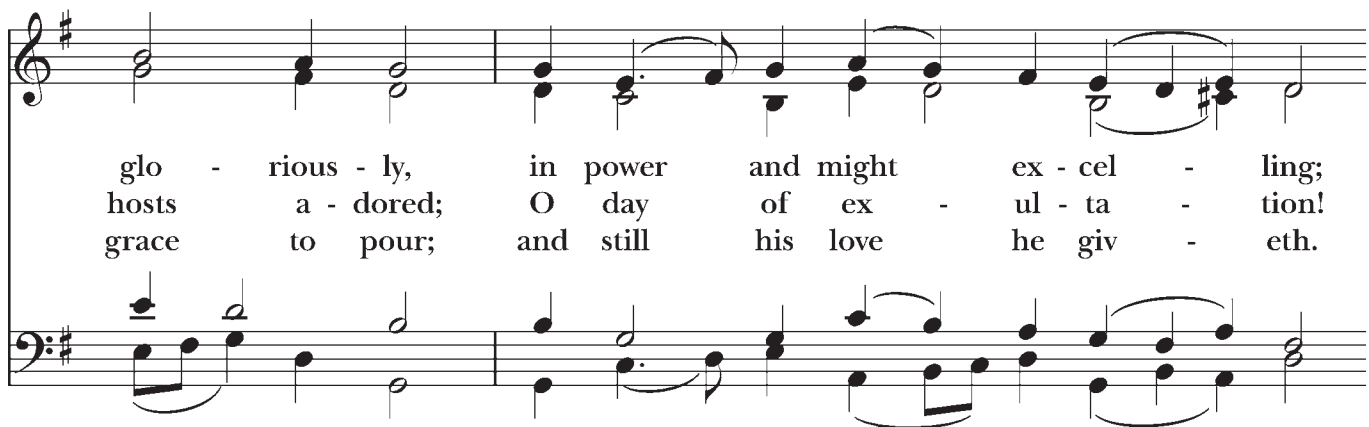
COMMUNION HYMNS

219 | The Lord ascendeth up on high

Unison or harmony



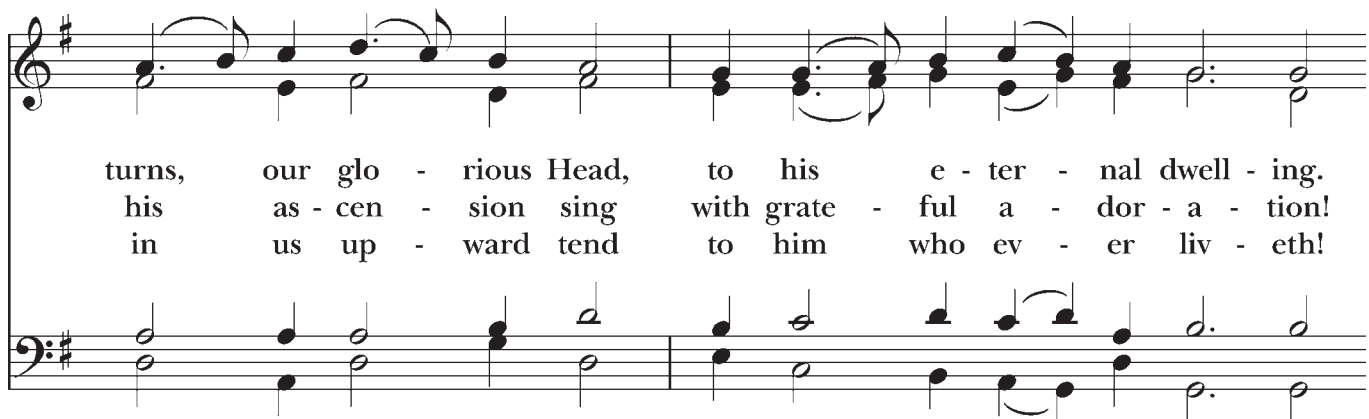
1 The Lord a - scend - eth up on high, the Lord hath tri - umphed
2 The heavens with joy re - ceive their Lord, by saints, by an - gel
3 Our great High Priest hath gone be - fore, up - on his Church his



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 -

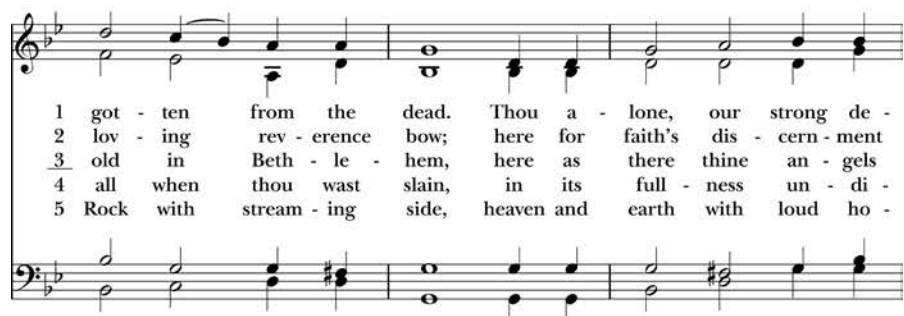


turns, our glo - rious Head, to his e - ter - nal dwell - ing.
his as - cen - sion sing with grate - ful a - dor - a - tion!
in us up - ward tend to him who ev - er liv - eth!

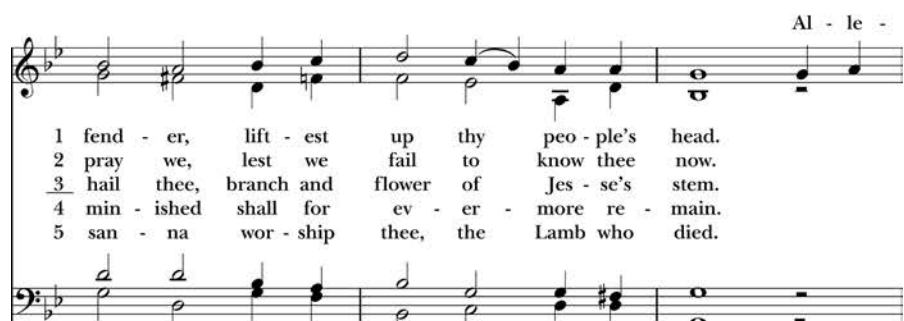
307 | Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor



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 -



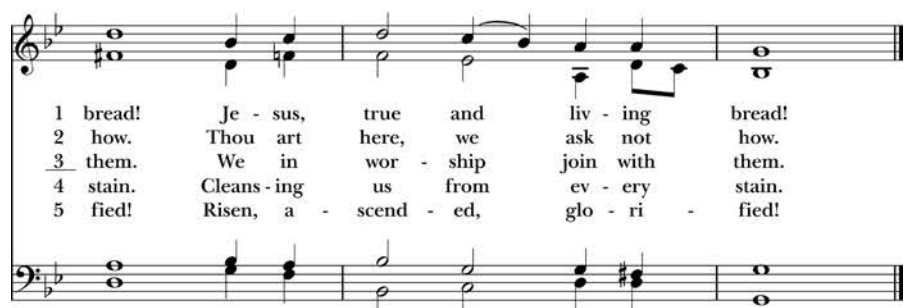
Al - le -
 1 fend - er, lift - est up thy peo - ple's head.
 2 pray we, lest we fail to know thee now.
 3 hail thee, branch and flower of Jes - se's stem.
 4 min - ished shall for ev - er more re - main.
 5 san - na wor - ship thee, the Lamb who died.



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



lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 1 Je - sus, true and liv - ing
 2 Thou art here, we ask not
 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

For those attending in person.

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 bless the Lord.
People	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

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 scap - 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 scap - ter his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the



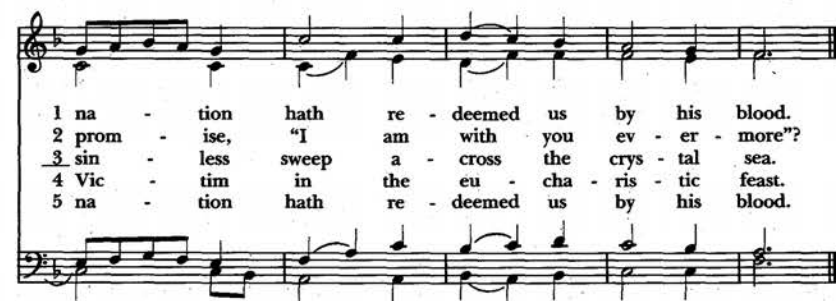
1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the



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
Nelson and Dale Young in celebration of their first anniversary.

LAY MINISTERS

VERGER Steven Swanner

ORGANIST Christin Baker

USHERS

8:15am | Mark Thomas
10:30am | Brad and Mary Collins

READERS

8:15am | Linda Buff
10:30am | Mary and Brad Collins

ACOLYTES

8:15am | Peter Dahl
10:30am | Martha Stewart - *Chalicerist*
 Sandra Wells - *Crucifer*
 Steve Slott - *Torch Bearer*
 Davis Slott - *2nd Torch Bearer*
 Fletcher Slott - *Gospel Bearer*

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Larry Vellani - *Leader*
Corrinne Surratt - *Gatekeeper*

VESTRY COUNTERS

Leslie Haines and George Blaisdell

FLOWER GUILD

Janie Sellers, Ren Bryan

ALTAR GUILD

Shara Partin, Verne Booker, Ren Bryan, Connie Griner, Mary Telander, Marilyn Tyler

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Gretchen Peet, Terri Stevens, Martha Stewart, Debra Scott, Harriett Whitley,
Cherry Wrenn

Next Sunday, we mark Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit among the apostles and followers of Jesus. Celebrated 50 days after Easter (including the day of Easter itself), the name of the holiday comes from the Greek *Pentēkostē*, which literally means “the 50th day.”



The events of the day are foretold by Jesus in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, just before his Ascension. While his followers were with the risen Christ, he tells them, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5, NRSV). He goes on to say to them, “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” (Acts 1:8).

The followers would not wait long for the promised Spirit. The author of Acts, traditionally believed to be Luke, recounts:

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each” (Acts 2:1-6).

We celebrate Pentecost as the inauguration of the Church’s mission in the world. Empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are to go out into our neighborhoods and the wider world—to Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth—witnessing to the risen Christ.

The Day of Pentecost is identified by the Book of Common Prayer as one of the feast days “especially appropriate” for baptism (Book of Common Prayer, p. 312). Because of this, Pentecost is also known as “Whitsun” or “Whitsunday” (“White Sunday”), a term used to describe the white baptismal garments worn by those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost and then worn to church on the Day of Pentecost.

Collect for Pentecost

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen (Book of Common Prayer, p. 227).

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