

Parish of Central Windsor

**SUNG
EUCHARIST**

Ascension Day

**Thursday 14th May 2026
7:30pm**



**A warm welcome to Holy Trinity Church
for our service this evening**

Organ music before the service: Prière du Christ montant vers son Père
(Messiaen)

Please stand for :

THE GREETING

The priest says

All God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet Psalm 47.5

All In the name of the Father†, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
All **and also with you.**

OPENING HYMN

**Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluya!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!**

**There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!!
Take the King of glory in! Alleluya!**

**See the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluya!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluya!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluya!
Still he calls mankind his own. Alleluya!**

**See! He lifts his hands above; Alleluya!
See! He shows the prints of love: Alleluya!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluya!
Blessings on his Church below. Alleluya!**

**Still for us he intercedes, Alleluya!
His prevailing death he pleads, Alleluya!
Near himself prepares our place, Alleluya!
Harbinger of human race. Alleluya!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!**

**There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
Partners of thine endless reign, Alleluya!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluya!**

Please remain standing for:

THE INTRODUCTION

The president introduces the service using these or other suitable words

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

THE ASCENSION READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1.1–11

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.’ ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.'

At the end the reader says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

THE COLLECT

The priest says:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

Please sit for :

PSALM 47

The congregation is invited to sing the response

Jesus reigns, our Lord and King

Let all nations | clap their hands,
Sing to God with | hymns of praise,
For the Lord is high and to | be adored
The great King over | all the earth **Response**

He is gone up with | shouts of joy,
The trumpets sounds as the | Lord ascends
O sing praises | to our King
Sing praises | to our King **Response**

For God is King of | all the earth
His mighty acts shall | be proclaimed
The Lord is King over | all the world
He reigns in glory | on his throne **Response**

Please remain seated for:

READING

Ephesians 1.15–23

¹ ¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for :

Gradual Hymn

**Eternal Monarch, King most high,
whose blood hath brought redemption nigh,
by whom the death of Death was wrought,
and conquering Grace's battle fought.**

**Ascending to the throne of might,
and seated at the Father's right,
all power in heaven is Jesu's own,
that here his manhood had not known.**

**Yea, angels tremble when they see
how changed is our humanity;
that flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,
and God, the flesh of God, hath reigned.**

**Be thou our joy and strong defence,
who art our future recompense:
so shall the light that springs from thee
be ours through all eternity.**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to thee let earth accord,
who art, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one. Amen**

*Latin 5th Century
Tr J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*

Please remain standing for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:

Alleluia, alleluia
Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember I am with you always to the end of the age.

All **Alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

All

Luke 24.44–53

24 ⁴⁴ Jesus said to the 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.’ ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.’

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit for:

SERMON

Please stand for:

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Let us declare before God the faith of the church in which, we pray, we may all find grace to grow.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

All Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Kyrie Eleison is sung:

All **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

Jesus says: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'. Alleluia

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed.
It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church.
Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday worship in one of our churches, but are not with us every week, have you considered giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or speak to any of our churchwardens

OFFERTORY HYMN

**All hail the power of Jesu's name!
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
to 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.**

**Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call;
the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**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
crown him Lord of all.**

*Edward Perronett (1726-1792)
and others*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ's sake.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because, after his most glorious resurrection,
he appeared to his disciples,
and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that
where he is, thither we might also ascend,
and reign with him in glory.

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:

SANCTUS *sung by the choir to the setting Ireland in C*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

BENEDICTUS *sung by the choir to the setting Ireland in C*

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St John the Baptist, St Stephen, St Agnes and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary version
as we pray together*

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, All
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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

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

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI *sung by the choir to the setting Ireland in C*

Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The priest says the invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **Amen.**

If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you or simply bow your head as you approach the altar so we know you wish to receive a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

During the administration of communion the following will be sung:

**Alleluya, sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluya, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluya, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluya, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**

Alleluya, Bread of Angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluya, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluya, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluya, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

W.Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

ANTHEM: God is gone up (*Croft*)

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand for :

Silence is kept.

Responsory

All As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

All As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**
As we long for your refreshing,
All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**
As we long for your renewing,
All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**
As we long for your equipping,
All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**
As we long for your empowering,
All **make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

THE BLESSING

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;**

**The joy all of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his Name to know.**

**To them the cross with all its shame,
with all its grace is given;
their name, an everlasting name;
their joy, the joy of heaven.**

**They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him:
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

The priest says

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

The ministers and people depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Transports de joie (*Messiaen*)

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt
“at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that
you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our
church community your spiritual home.

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you
for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the
Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org**

WEB SITE:

www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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