

The Church of England  
in Central Windsor

**SUNG  
EUCCHARIST**

**Ascension Day**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
7:30pm



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

*We are delighted to be joined this evening by the Stockholm  
Cantus who are visiting us from Sweden*

**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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After 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.<sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup>He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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.’ <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>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.’

*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  
***Jesus reigns, our Lord and King***

Please remain seated for:

## READING

### **Ephesians 1.15–23**

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

*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 <sup>44</sup> 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.’ <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.’ <sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> 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**

*Please sit for:*

**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 choir sing the Kyrie Eleison to the setting Schubert in G:*

*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.*



## OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first-begotten from the dead,  
thou alone, our strong defender,  
liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluya,  
Jesu, true and living Bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for Faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluya,  
thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee,  
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluya,  
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished  
once for all when thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluya,  
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
Stricken Rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluya,  
risen, ascended, glorified!

## 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:

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

*All* **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.**

*All*

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 taught us

*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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and 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

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 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;  
alleluia, 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.**

**ANTHEM:** God is gone up (*Finzi*)

## **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.**

*All* As we worship you in majesty,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*All* As we long for your refreshing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*All* As we long for your renewing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*All* As we long for your equipping,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*All* As we long for your empowering,  
**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.

*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 d'une âme devant la gloire du Christ  
qui est la sienne (*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](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**Web Site:**  
[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)

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