



Ascension Day

Thursday 21st May 2021 6.00pm

Holy Communion

Prayer before the Service

O loving Lord, be near us in this time of worship. Open our ears to hear thy voice; open our eyes to behold thy glory; open our hearts to receive thy grace; open our lips to show forth thy praise; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Music before the service **A Hollins** *Andante poco tranquillo & Melody*

Welcome - Fr Stephen

THE INTROIT

HYMN NEH 130 Hail the day that sees him rise



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!

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 kneel or sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

THE KYRIES from the Missa de Angelis

Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR THE SOVEREIGN

ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite: Have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant ELIZABETH, our Queen and Governor, that she (knowing whose minister she is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we, and all her subjects (duly considering whose authority she hath) may faithfully serve, honour, and humbly obey her, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE EPISTLE (read by Sarah Collister)

The portion of scripture appointed for the Epistle is written in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, beginning at the first verse.

THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Here endeth the reading.

¶ Please stand

GRADUAL HYMN NEH 129 O Christ our hope, our heart's desire



- O CHRIST, our hope, our hearts' desire Redemption's only spring; Creator of the world art thou, Its Saviour and its King.
- 2 How vast the mercy and the love Which laid our sins on thee, And led thee to a cruel death To set thy people free.
- 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The ransom has been paid; And thou art on thy Father's throne In glorious robes arrayed.
- 4 O may thy mighty love prevail Our sinful souls to spare; O may we come before thy throne, And find acceptance there!
- O Christ, be thou our present joy, Our future great reward; Our only glory may it be To glory in the Lord.
- 6 All praise to thee, ascended Lord; All glory ever be To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Through all eternity. Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in the sixteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St Mark, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

ATTERWARDS he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED



¶ Please sit

THE SERMON Fr Stephen

¶ Please stand



SEE the Conqueror mounts in triumph, See the King in royal state Riding on the clouds his chariot To his heavenly palace gate; Hark! the choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluyas sing, And the portals high are lifted To receive their heavenly King.

2 Who is this that comes in glory, With the trump of jubilee? Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained the victory; He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose, He has vanquished sin and Satan, He by death has spoiled his foes.

- 3 Thou hast raised our human nature In the clouds to God's right hand; There we sit in heavenly places, There with thee in glory stand; Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne; Mighty Lord, in thine ascension We by faith behold our own.
- 4 Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son, Dying, risen, ascending for us, Who the heavenly realm has won; Glory to the Holy Spirit; To One God in persons Three; Glory both in earth and heaven, Glory, endless glory be. Amen.

¶ Please kneel or sit

... Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

THE PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH MILITANT

LMIGHTY and ever living God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and Asupplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [alms and] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes and governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto her whole council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LMIGHTY God,

E that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, **L** and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

A Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartly sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all Them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; + pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMFORTABLE WORDS

HaR what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believein him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Hear also what Saint Paul saith. This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear also what Saint John saith, If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is

¶ Please stand

THE SURSUM CORDA



It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Through thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his most glorious Resurrection manifestly appeared to all his Apostles, and in their sight ascended up 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 laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS (sung by the choir to the setting by Charles Wood)

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. Amen. + Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

¶ Please kneel or sit

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed + Body and Blood: Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake 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.* Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: *Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI (setting by Charles Wood)

Chamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, and his Blood which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life: Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

¶ In accordance with the Anglican tradition, Holy Communion is administered in both kinds i.e. the consecrated Bread and Wine. During the current pandemic, this can only be offered by intinction i.e. the consecrated wafer dipped in the consecrated wine, as the sharing of the Common Cup (Chalice) by sipping the consecrated wine is not permitted.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM CV Stanford Coelos ascendit hodie

Today into the heavens has ascended Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Alleluia! He sits at the Father's right hand, and rules heaven and earth, Alleluia! Now have been fulfilled all of Father David's songs, now God is with God, Alleluia! He sits upon the royal throne of God, in this his greatest triumph, Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord: Let the Holy Trinity be praised, Let us give thanks to the Lord, Alleluia! Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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.

THE PRAYER OF OBLATION

THEE O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this Holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

Amen.

¶ Please stand

THE GLORIA



	Thou that to-kest a way the sits of the world, have mer-cy up-on us,
કુ	Thou that to kest a way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
ઢ	Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer-cy up-on us.
ઢ	For thou on ly art ho ly; thou on ly art the Lord;
ઢ	thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghoys.
ઢ	art most high in the glo-ry of God the Fa ther. A men.

THE BLESSING

THE peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN NEH 134 The head that once was crowned with thorns



THE head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now:
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor's brow.

- 2 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;
- 3 The joy of all who dwell above, The joy of all below, To whom he manifests his love, And grants his name to know.

- 4 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.
- 5 They suffer with their Lord below, They reign with him above, Their profit and their joy to know The mystery of his love.
- 6 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.

Organ VoluntaryD Buxtehude *Praeludium in C*

Music for private reflection

J.S. Bach *Lobet Gott in seinen Reichen*, BWV 11 (Ascension Oratorio) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJeqUaqfkYk



William Blake *The Ascension*pen, graphite, Indian ink and watercolour with graphite under drawing on paper
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge