

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Ascension Sunday

Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

The People's responses are in bold.

Gathering Music *Prelude on Rhosymedre* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Opening Acclamation

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled 'Celebrant' and contains a melodic line with the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Christ has as - cen - ded on high.' The second staff is labeled 'People' and contains a melodic line with the lyrics 'O come, let us a - dore, Al - le - lu - ia.' Both staves are in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

Celebrant
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ has as - cen - ded on high.

People
O come, let us a - dore, Al - le - lu - ia.

Hymn in Procession

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, 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!
 raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, 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!
 find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
 music: Llanfair, Robert Williams (1781-1821)

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

The Lesson *Acts 1:4-11*

While Jesus was staying with the disciples, 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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

1 O Lord Most High, e - ter - nal King, by
4 O ris - en Christ, a - scend - ed Lord, all

thee re - deemed thy praise we sing. The bonds of
praise to thee let earth ac - cord, who art, while

death are burst by thee, and grace has won the
end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with

After stanza 4

vic - to - ry.
Spi - rit, One. Al - le - lu - ia!

words: medieval Latin; sts. 1-3, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); st. 4, tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885)

music: *Gonfalon Royal*, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947)

words © 1985 Church Publishing, Inc.

music © 1919 Oxford University Press

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The Gospel *Luke 24:44-53*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Christ.

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.

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

Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Affirmation of Faith

During the season of Eastertide we will be using the Affirmation of Faith (creed) from one of our sister churches in the Anglican Communion, the Church of New Zealand. The prayers of this branch of the church are beloved throughout the Communion for their simple, direct, and creation-centered language in liturgy.

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love to us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

Prayers of the People

O Risen Christ, with your ascension to the fullness of God, a new world has broken into ours—a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.

We pray especially for those in our community who have asked for prayers for healing.
Please name those who have asked for our prayers.

O Risen Christ, with your ascension to the fullness of God, a new community has been formed—a community that loves and cares for all, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a space where all find a place of belonging.

We pray especially for our nation and its leaders, all the nations of the world, and our local community.

Please name specific concerns of our various communities.

O Risen Christ, with your ascension to the fullness of God, a new creation has begun—all that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.

We pray especially for those things for which we are most grateful, and for the other concerns of our hearts.

Please name specific thanksgivings and concerns.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying

Christ our companion to whom we try to cling: as you have reached into our depths and drawn us to love you, so make us open, freely to let you go; that you may return in unexpected power to change the world through us. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

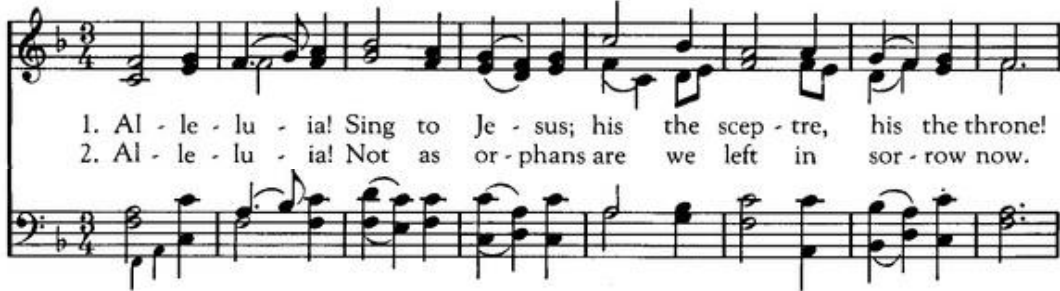
Thank you for your generous support!



The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

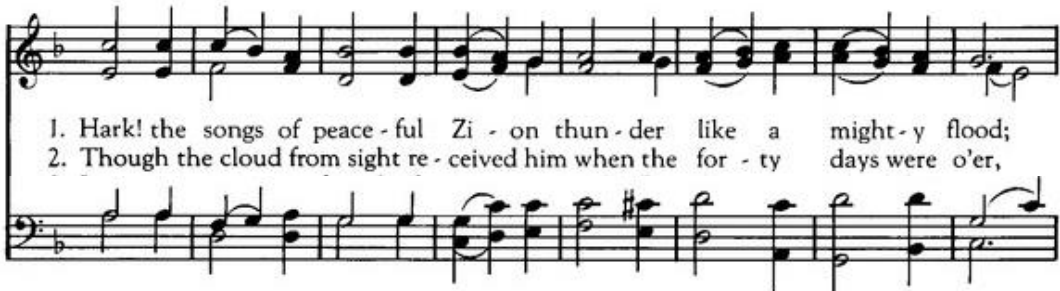
Hymn at the Offertory



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - tre, his the throne!
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now.



1. Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone.
2. Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us; faith be - lieves, nor questions how.



1. Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;
2. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er,



1. Je - sus out of ev - 'ry na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
2. shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?

words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

It is indeed our joy to give thanks and praise to you, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him far above all heavens in glory. And so, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and sky and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

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

setting: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)
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The Celebrant continues

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, you have filled all creation with light and life. In great love you sent to us Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

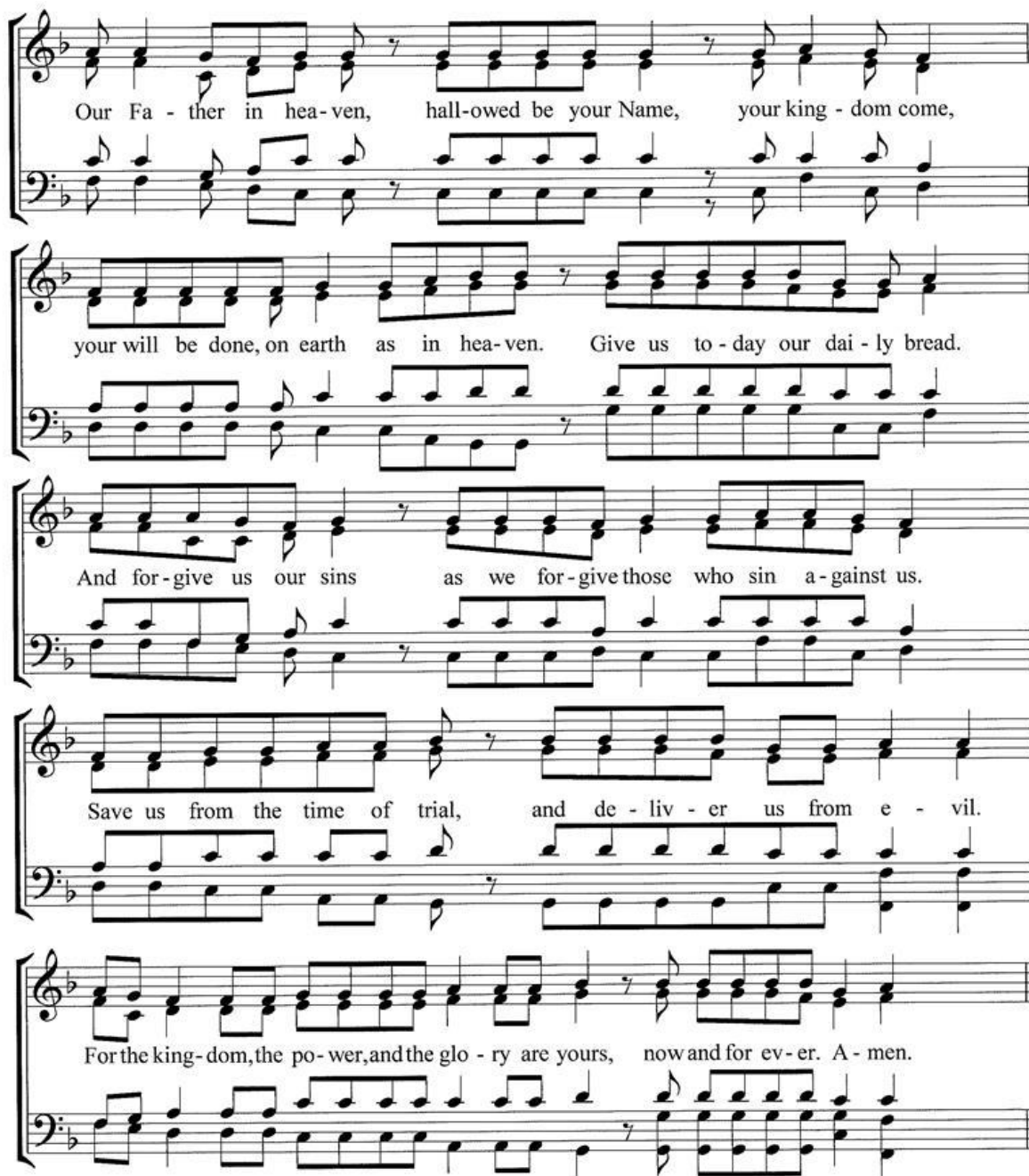
On the night in which he was betrayed, our brother Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast with your presence and raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

With your holy ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in hea-ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
And for-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.

The Fraction Anthem *sung three times*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics for the first system are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry." The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst." The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support for the vocal line.

words: John 6, adapt. Robert J. Batastini (b. 1942) and the Taizé community
music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
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The Communion

While the Celebrant communicates those in the church, the whole assembly shares in a time of reflection and prayer, contemplating the Presence of Christ in the gifts of bread and wine, along with the larger reality that we ourselves, along with all creation, are the Body of Christ. (Colossians 3:11)

Anthem at the Communion *sung by the choir*

Christ, He requires still
where so e'er He comes to feed or lodge
to have the best of rooms;
Give Him the choice;
grant Him the nobler part of all the house;
the best of all's the heart.

words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)
music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Prayer after Communion

The People join the Celebrant for the final part of the prayer, in bold.

Ever-living God, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and revealed the way to life in his name. Dying and rising, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope that you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

The Blessing

The wonder and wildness of God, who shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel.

And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

1 Put forth, O God, thy Spi - rit's might and
4 O Judge di - vine of hu - man strife! O

bid thy Church in - crease, in breadth and length, in
Van - quish - er of pain! To know thee is e -

depth and height, her u - ni - ty and peace.
ter - nal life, to serve thee is to reign.

words: Howard Chandler Robbins (1876-1952)
music: *Chelsea Square*, Howard Chandler Robbins (1876-1952); harm. Ray Francis Brown (1897-1964)

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude *Prelude on Hyfrydol* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

St. Paul's on the Green
The Rev. Daniel Simons
60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851
stpaulsnorwalk.org | info@stpaulsnorwalk.org