

HOLY EUCHARIST

Ascension Sunday

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | MAY 21, 2023 – 9:00AM & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Adagio in E Major - Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

Please stand as the bell sounds.



HYMN IN PROCESSION

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!

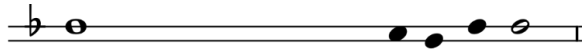
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
 Music: *Llanfair*, Robert Williams (1781-1821)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

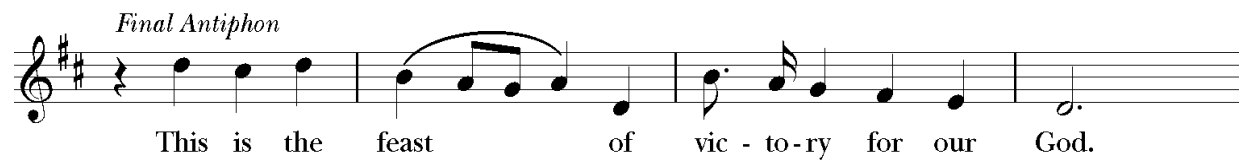
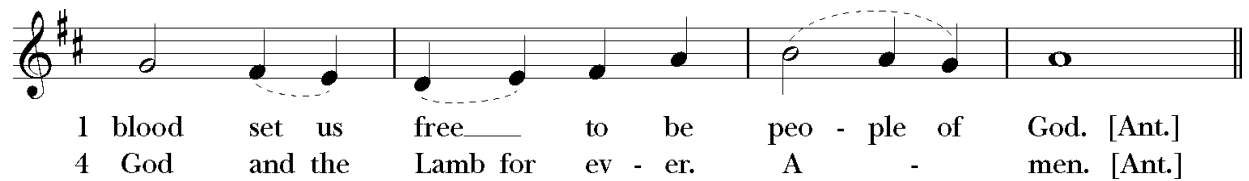
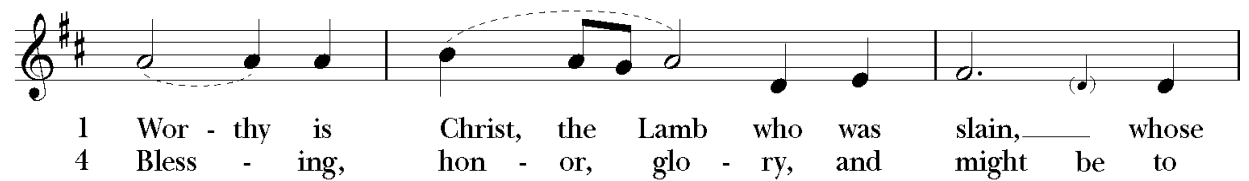
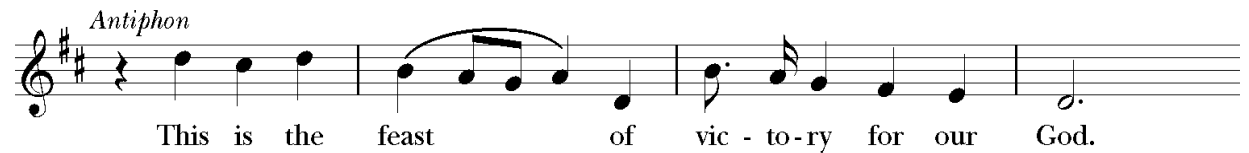
Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

The People respond



The Lord is risen indeed. Al-le-lu-ia.

SONG OF PRAISE



Words: Revelation 5:12-13; adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980)
Music: Festival Canticle, Richard Hillert (1923-2010))

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant intones

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 *seated*

Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “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.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

At 9:00am, the first verse is intoned by the Cantor, then by all on this tone
At 11:00am, the Psalm is sung by the Choir



God is Sovereign, clothed in splendid apparel; *
 God is robed in majesty and is girded with strength.

God has made the whole world so sure *
 that it cannot be moved;

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
 you are from everlasting.

The waters have lifted up, O God, the waters have lifted up their voice; *
 the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
 mightier is the Holy One who dwells on high.

Your testimonies are very sure, *
 and holiness adorns your house, O God, for ever and for evermore.

(at 11:00am) Anglican Chant: William Crotch

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN *standing, all turn toward the Gospel as it is brought among the People*

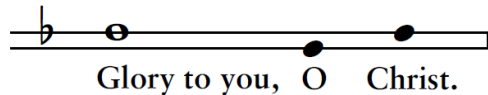
1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
 2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
 3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
 4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
 al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
 vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
 I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
 as his friends and loves us as we are.
 but a face, a per - son, and a name.
 cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

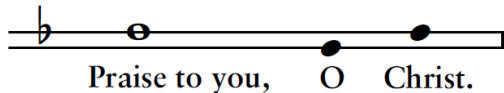
Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936)
 Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896–1979)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



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.



SERMON

The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

During the season of Eastertide we will use the Affirmation of Faith (Creed) from one of our companion 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

God of new creation, you promise to hear and answer when we pray to you in faith.

We pray now for the world:

Lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the Church:

Enliven the Church for its mission

that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for this community:

Inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,

that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need, and especially those who have asked for our prayers...

Please add your own prayers, aloud or silently.

Comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn: [especially for...]

Please add your own prayers, aloud or silently.

Give comfort, O God, to those who grieve.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We give thanks for the faithful in every generation.

May their example inspire our witness in our own day.

The Celebrant concludes

God of majesty, yours is the power that raised Christ from death, yours the glory that exalted him to your right hand. By the mystery of the Ascension, sustain our hope as we bear witness to our baptism. By the perpetual outpouring of your Spirit, confirm your church in its mission of salvation. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

Giving to St. Paul's

The work and mission of St. Paul's is fully supported by the generous contributions of its members and friends.
You can make a one-time offering or a sustaining gift to St. Paul's by visiting stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or text to give at 855-934-1074
For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

Thank you for your support!




MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Choir at 11:00am*

O Thou, the central orb

Charles Wood (1866-1926)
Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.
Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming clay
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*



1 O Lord Most High, e - ter - nal King, by
 2 A - scend - ing to the Fa - ther's throne thou
 3 Be thou our joy, O Might - y Lord, as
 4 O ris - en Christ, a - scend - ed Lord, all

thee re - deemed thy praise we sing. The bonds of
 claim'st the king - dom as thine own; and an - gels
 thou wilt be our great re - ward; let all our
 praise to thee let earth ac - cord, who art, while

death are burst by thee, and grace has won the
 won - der when they see how changed is our hu -
 glo - ry be in thee both now and through e -
 end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with

After stanza 4

vic - to - ry.
 man - i - ty.
 ter - ni - ty.
 Spi - rit, One. Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Medieval Latin; sts. 1–3, tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984); st. 4, tr. Benjamin Webb (1819–1885)
 Music: *Gonfalon Royal*, Percy Carter Buck (1871–1947)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
 It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores our broken world. You are unceasingly at work bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life.

Christ raised from the dead proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire within us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en 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,

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Grayson Warren Brown (b. 1948)

The Celebrant continues

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the light of Easter, the disciples found new hope as the truth stirred among them that the one they had loved and lost was with them now in every place forever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, he renewed the promise of his presence, and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your daughters and sons.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Alive in him, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Made one with him, we offer you these gifts, and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by Christ's life-giving power, they may be the Body and blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work for your praise and glory; that we may grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Paul, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters, living and departed.

All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.



Setting: Will Doreza

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

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: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

This is the Bread of Heaven.

Broken for the life of the world.

Everyone, without exception, is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups. Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.

All sing as the distribution of Communion begins:



Loaves are bro-ken, words are spo-ken, as in faith we ga-ther here. Je-sus speaks a-cross the
a - ges: "I am with you, do not fear!" By your bo - dy bro-ken for us, by your wine of life out-
poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Words: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., (1923-2007)
Music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

MUSIC AT COMMUNION *sung by the choir at 11:00am*

Hymn: A hymn of glory let us sing

Words: *The Venerable Bede (673-735)*
Music: *15th cent. plainsong*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The People join in 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 OF MADELEINE HARRIS-LEREW

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: Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION



1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
 2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him up - on earth,
 *3 O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
 4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanks - giv - ing and song

re - joice in his word, ye an - gels of light;
 in tune - ful ac - cord, all ye of new birth;
 each ju - bi - lant chord re - ech - o a - round;
 to him be out - poured all a - ges a - long!

ye hea - vens, a - dore him by whom ye were made,
 praise him who hath brought you his grace from a - bove,
 loud or - gans, his glo - ry forth tell in deep tone,
 For love in cre - a - tion, for hea - ven re - stored,

and wor - ship be - fore him, in bright - ness ar - rayed.
 praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
 and sweet harp, the sto - ry of what he hath done.
 for grace of sal - va - tion, O praise ye the Lord!

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877), alt.; based on Psalms 148 and 150
 Music: *Laudate Dominum*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

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

Now thank we all our God – Virgil Fox (1912-1980)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Louise Kalemkerian *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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