

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Ascension Sunday

Voluntary:

i) Chorale Prelude on "Heut' triumphiret Gottes Sohn", BWV 630 J S Bach
ii) Ricercare (in the Grand Style) on "Llanfair" David Briggs

Introit: Lift up your heads, O ye gates

Eric Thiman

Call to Worship

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” *Hebrews 4:14*

Hymn: 439 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious!

Regent Square

- 1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious !
 See the Man of Sorrows now,
 from the fight returned victorious —
 every knee to him shall bow.
 Crown him ! crown him ! crown him ! crown him !
 Crowns become the Victor’s brow.

- 2 Crown the Saviour, angels, crown him !
 Rich the trophies Jesus brings ;
 in the seat of power enthrone him,
 while the vault of heaven rings.
 Crown him ! crown him ! crown him ! crown him !
 Crown the Saviour King of kings !

- 3 Sinners in derision crowned him,
 mocked the dying Saviour’s claim ;
 saints and angels crowd around him,
 own his title, praise his name.
 Crown him ! crown him ! crown him ! crown him !
 spread abroad the Victor’s fame.

4 Hark, those bursts of acclamation !
hark, those loud triumphant chords !
Jesus takes the highest station —
Oh, what joy the sight affords !
Crown him ! crown him ! crown him ! crown him !
King of kings, and Lord of lords !

***We bring to God our prayers and
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 debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory, forever.
Amen**

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Acts 1:1-11**
(Read by: Olivia Thrower)

In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But

you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar'ia and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Amen

Children's Time

We respond to God's Word with our Offering
(Children invited to help with the Offering)

Offertory: Trumpet Tune
(trumpet: Terence O'Neill)

John Stanley

Prayer

Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club

Hymn: 28 Thy mercy, Lord is in the heavens

London New

- 1 Thy mercy, Lord, is in the heavens ;
thy truth doth reach the clouds :
thy justice is like mountains great ;
thy judgements deep as floods :
- 2 Lord, all creation thou dost keep.
How precious is thy grace !
Therefore in shadow of thy wings
we all our trust shall place.
- 3 We with the bounty of thy house
shall be well satisfied ;
from rivers of thy pleasures thou
wilt drink to us provide.

4 Because of life the fountain pure
 remains alone with thee ;
 and in that purest light of thine
 we clearly light shall see.

We bring to God our Prayers of Confession

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Luke 24:44-53**

Then he said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are 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 blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Amen

Anthem: Jubilate Deo

Benjamin Britten

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness and come
before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.

(Psalm 100 Book of Common Prayer)

Intimations

Hymn: 446 Lift up your hearts, believers!

St Theodulph

(words omitted due to copyright laws)

Sermon **Towards heaven**

We bring to God our prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: 436 Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Guiting Power

- 1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
 Saviour, Master, King !
 Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
 hear us as we sing :
 *Yours the glory and the crown,
 the high renown, the eternal name !*

- 2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,
 Son of Man on earth !
 Power and majesty concealing
 by your humble birth :
 *Yours the glory and the crown,
 the high renown, the eternal name !*

- 3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
 victim crucified !
 Death is through the cross defeated,
 sinners justified :
 *Yours the glory and the crown,
 the high renown, the eternal name !*

- 4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever
 high in heaven above !
 Sin and death and hell shall never

stifle hymns of love :
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name !*

- 5 So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song :
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name !*

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Voluntary:

March on a theme by Handel (Lift up your heads)

Alexandre Guilmant