



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

# Choral Evensong Ascension Day

Welcome to St. Peter's and this service of Choral Evensong on Ascension Day. This service of Evening Prayer is drawn almost entirely from the Bible and has been sung regularly in the Anglican Church for centuries. Its purpose is to give thanks in song and sight to God, the Giver of all beauty.

Evensong connects us to the ancient liturgies held at this time of day through its inclusion of the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*. These canticles, from the Gospel of Luke, were sung in the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline respectively.

Tonight, we are delighted to be joined once again by the Choir of the Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton, (Joseph Arndt, Choirmaster) for the eighth annual joint service sung by our two choirs.

**Prelude:** L'Ascension (*The Ascension*) Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)  
1. Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père  
*(The Majesty of Christ demanding its glory of the Father)*

*The tower bells peal before the service. All then stand for the Procession.*

**Procession**

## Introit

COELOS ASCENDIT HODIE  
Jesus Christus Rex gloriae,  
Sedet ad Patris dexteram,  
Gubernat caelum et terram.  
Alleluia.

Iam finem habent omnia,  
Patris Davidis carmina,  
Iam Dominus cum Domino,  
Sedet in Dei solio.  
Alleluia.

In hoc triumpho maximo  
Benedicamus Domino.  
Laudatur Sancta Trinitas.  
Deo dicamus gratias.  
Alleluia. Amen.

*TODAY HAS GONE UP INTO GLORY  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,  
who sits on the right of the Father  
and who rules heaven and earth.  
Alleluia.*

*Now all the songs of the Patriarch David  
have been fulfilled.  
Now the Lord sits with the Lord  
on the throne of God.  
Alleluia.*

*In this great triumph  
let us bless the Lord.  
Let the Holy Trinity be praised.  
Let us give thanks to God.  
Alleluia. Amen.*

Words: Hymn for Ascensiontide

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

## Opening Sentence

*Officiant* Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

*Hebrews 9:24*

## THE PRECES AND PSALTER

Music: Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*Choir* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.  
*Choir* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
*Choir* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Officiant* Praise ye the Lord.  
*Choir* The Lord's Name be praised.

*The People sit. The Choir sings the Psalms.*

**Psalm 24** *Domini est terra*

Anglican Chant: T. Armstrong

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, \*  
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas \*  
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? \*  
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, \*  
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,  
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord \*  
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, \*  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 "Who is this King of glory?" \*  
"The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle."
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" \*  
"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."  
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.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \* sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \* when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.  
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.

## THE LESSONS

### First Lesson: Ezekiel 1:1-14,24-28b

**I**N THE THIRTIETH YEAR, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), the word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was on him there.

As I looked, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud with brightness around it and fire flashing forth continually, and in the middle of the fire, something like gleaming amber. In the middle of it was something like four living creatures. This was their appearance: they were of human form. Each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: their wings touched one another; each of them moved straight ahead, without turning as they moved. As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle; such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. Each moved straight ahead; wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. In the middle of\* the living creatures there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving to and fro among the living creatures; the fire was bright, and lightning issued from the fire. The living creatures darted to and fro, like a flash of lightning.

When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of mighty waters, like the thunder of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army; when they stopped, they let down their wings. And there came a voice from above the dome over their heads; when they stopped, they let down their wings.

And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. Upwards from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all round; and downwards from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendour all round. Like the bow in a cloud on

a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendour all round. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

*The People stand and sing the Office Hymn*

Hymn 221: “O Lord Most High, eternal King,”

*Gonfalon Royal*

*The People sit.*

**Magnificat**

**M**Y SOUL doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.  
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.

Words: *Luke 1: 46-55 and Gloria Patri*  
Music: *Edington Service, Grayston Ives (b. 1948)*

Second Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20

**N**OW THE ELEVEN DISCIPLES went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

**Nunc dimittis**

**L**ORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
According to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Words: *Luke 2: 29-32 and Gloria Patri*  
Music: *Ives*

*The People stand.*

## The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant* I believe in God,

*All* the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Music: *Hancock*

*The People kneel.*

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.



*Officiant* Our Father,  
*All* 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. Amen.

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Officiant* O Lord, save the State;  
*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Officiant* Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Officiant* O Lord, save thy people;  
*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.

*Officiant* Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Officiant* O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

### The Collect of the Day

*Officiant* 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.  
*Choir* Amen.

## A Collect for Peace

*Officiant* O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

*Choir* Amen.

## A Collect for Aid against Perils

*Officiant* Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

*Choir* Amen.

*The People sit.*

## Rector's Greeting

### At the Offering, Anthem

GOD IS GONE UP with a triumphant shout:  
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing praises out,  
Unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,  
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,  
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody  
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;  
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string  
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

Words: *Edward Taylor, from Sacramental Meditations*  
Music: *Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)*

*The People kneel.*

## Closing Prayers

*The Officiant offers prayers for the Church, the nation, and the world.*

## The General Thanksgiving

*All* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*Officiant* Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*People* Amen.

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## The Grace

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

*People* Amen.

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

Hymn: "Christ triumphant, ever reigning"

St. 1 All

St. 2 Higher voices; all sing refrain

St. 3 Lower voices; all sing refrain

St. 4 Choir alone

St. 5 All



1 Christ tri - um - phant, ev - er reign - ing, Sav - ior, Mas - ter King!  
2 Word in - car - nate, truth re - veal - ing, Son of Man on earth!  
3 Suffer - ing ser - vant, scorned, ill - treat - ed, vic - tim cru - ci - fied!  
4 Priest - ly king, en - throned for - ev - er high in heaven, a - bove!  
5 So, our hearts and voi - ces rais - ing through the a - ges long,



Lord of heaven, our lives sus - tain - ing, hear us as we sing:  
power and maj - es - ty con - ceal - ing by your hum - ble birth:  
death is through the cross de - feat - ed, sin - ners jus - ti - fied:  
sin and death and hell shall nev - er sti - fle hymns of love:  
cease - less - ly up - on you gaz - ing, this shall be our song:



Yours the glo - ry and the crown, the high re - nown, the e - ter - nal name.

Words: *Michael Saward (1932–2015)*

Music: *Guiting Power, John Barnard (b. 1948)*

*The People remain standing as the Procession departs.*

Voluntary: Dix Pièces  
4. Toccata

Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)

*Bearing in mind that the Voluntary, like the liturgy that precedes it, is an offering to God's glory, the Congregation is asked to be seated or depart quietly.  
It is requested that there be no applause.*

*All are cordially invited to a festive reception in the undercroft following this service.*



The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon *Officiant*

The Choir of the Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton

Joseph Arndt *Organist and Choirmaster*

Heather Martin Cooper *Assistant Organist*

The Choir of St. Peter's, Ladue

David Sinden *Organist and Choirmaster*

DeWayne Trainer *Crucifer*

*At the Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton, regular services of Choral Evensong conclude this Sunday, June 1, at 5:00 p.m. Regular services of Choral Evensong will resume on Sunday, October 5, and continue in on the first and third Sundays of the month.*

*Here at St. Peter's, monthly services of Choral Evensong will resume beginning Sunday, October 12, at 5:00 p.m., and will continue on the second Sunday of the month.*



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

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