



**THE SUNDAY
AFTER ASCENSION**

**CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH SERMON IN MUSIC**

12TH MAY 2024, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.**

**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;**

**The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.**

**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.**

**They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**

**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.**

Tune: St Magnus by J Clarke 1673–1707
Words: T Kelly 1769–1855
Hebrews 2: 10

Welcome

Minister Beloved, we are come together
in the presence of Almighty God
and of the whole company of heaven
to offer unto him, through our Lord Jesus Christ,
our worship and praise and thanksgiving;
to make confession of our sins,
to pray as well for others as for ourselves,
that we may know more truly
the greatness of God's love
and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace;
and to ask on behalf of all men
such things as their well being doth require.
Wherefore let us kneel now
and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Confession

All **Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways
like lost sheep,
we have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things
which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done,
and there is no health in us:
but thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
spare thou them, O God,
which confess their faults,
restore thou them that are penitent,
according to thy promises
declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:**

**and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly,
righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.**

The Minister delivers the Absolution

May the Almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon
and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Preces

Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips,
Choir *and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

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

Minister Glory be 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.*

Minister Praise ye the Lord.
Choir *The Lord's name be praised.*

Psalm 147: 1-12

*1 O praise the Lord, for it is a good thing
to sing praises unto our God :
yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.*

*2 The Lord doth build up Jerusalem :
and gather together the out-casts of Israel.*

*3 He healeth those that are broken in heart :
and giveth medicine to heal their sickness.*

*4 He telleth the number of the stars :
and calleth them all by their names.*

*5 Great is our Lord, and great is his power :
yea, and his wisdom is infinite.*

*6 The Lord setteth up the meek :
and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground.*

*7 O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving :
sing praises upon the harp unto our God;*

*8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds,
and prepareth rain for the earth :
and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains,
and herb for the use of men;*

*9 Who giveth fodder unto the cattle :
and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.*

*10 He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse :
neither delighteth he in any man's legs.*

*11 But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him :
and put their trust in his mercy.*

*12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem :
praise thy God, O Sion.*

*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.*

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61

read by David Lowish

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

All This is the word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Evening Service for five voices – Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

Choir *My soul doth magnify the Lord:
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
 For he hath regarded:
 the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
 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.*

New Testament Lesson

Luke 4: 14-21

read by Rachel Chapman

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.’

And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service for five voices – Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

Choir *Lord, 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.*

Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God 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.**

Responses

Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

Minister The Lord be with you,
Choir *and with thy spirit.*

Minister Let us pray.

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

*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.*

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us,
Choir *and grant us thy salvation.*

Minister O Lord, save the King,
Choir *and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Minister Endue thy Ministers with righteousness,
Choir *and make thy chosen people joyful.*

Minister O Lord, save thy people,
Choir *and bless thine inheritance.*

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

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us,
Choir *and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

Collects

The first, for the day

Minister O God, the King of glory,
*who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven:
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us
and exalt us unto the same place
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before;*

*who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.*

Choir *Amen.*

The second, for Peace

Minister 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 both our hearts may be set
to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended
from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Choir *Amen.*

The third, for Aid against all Perils

Minister 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 Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Choir *Amen.*

Sermon in Music

i) Ascendens Christus in altum – Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

ii) Ascendit Deus – Peter Philips (1560-1628)

Prayers of Intercession

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

This response may be used

All Lord, in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

All

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of thy Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn

**Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.**

**Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.**

**In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.**

**Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.**

Tune: Angel Voices by E G Monk 1819-1900
Words: F Pott 1832-1909

Blessing

Minister 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 Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

Choir *Amen.*

Organ Voluntary

Transport du joie (L'Ascension) – Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

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