

Choral Evensong: Sunday After Ascension

THE OFFICE

The Introit: Hide me under the shadow of thy wings (West)

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings, O Lord,
and give thine angels charge concerning me:
that I may lie down in peace, and take my rest,
for it is you, Lord, only, that makest me to dwell in safety.

The Minister may read a sentence of Scripture.

Beloved in Christ, we are here in the presence of the living God and of the whole company of heaven, to offer to him, through our Lord Jesus Christ, our worship and praise and thanksgiving; that we may know more truly the greatness of his love, and that his grace may bear fruit in our lives. We have come to hear and receive God's holy Word, to seek the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit, and to pray for ourselves and all mankind that we may be given those things which are necessary for our true well-being. But first let us confess our sins, and seek our Father's pardon and peace:

**We confess to God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.**

SIT or KNEEL

**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.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

**Almighty God have mercy upon us,
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**

The Minister (if a Priest) says:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

STAND

O Lord, open thou our lips;
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

Praise ye the Lord;
The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 68: 1-14, 19-20

- 1 Let God arise and let his / enemies • be / scattered:
let them also that / hate him / flee be-/fore him.
- 2 Like as the smoke vanisheth when the wind driveth it away, *
and like as wax / melteth • in the / fire:
so let the ungodly / perish • at the / presence • of / God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and re-/ joice be • fore / God:
let them / also • be / merry • and / joyful.
- 4 O sing unto God and sing praises / unto • his / name:
magnify him that rideth upon the heavens; * be glad in the /
Lord • and re-/ joice be-/ fore him.

- 5 He is a father of the fatherless, * and defendeth the / cause • of
the / widows: even God in his / holy / habit-/ ation.
- 6 He giveth the solitary a home wherein to dwell, * and bringeth
forth the prisoners / into / liberty: but the rebellious / dwell • in a
/ desert / land.
- 7 O God when thou wentest forth be-/fore thy / people:
when thou / wentest / through the / wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook,* and the heavens poured forth rain at the /
presence • of / God: before the Lord of Sinai, * even before /
God the / God of / Israel.
- 9 Thou didst send a gracious / rain O / God: and didst refresh the
land of thine in-/herit- ance / when • it was / weary.
- 10 Thy flock found a / dwelling • there-/in: thou O God of thy
goodness didst make pro-/vision / for the / poor.

11 The Lord / gave the / word:

great was the company of / them • that pro- / claimed the tidings,

12 'Kings with their armies are / fleeing • a- / way:

and the women at / home • are di- / viding • the / spoil.

**13 'Though ye tarried a- / mong the / sheepfolds: yet Israel is like a
dove whose wings are covered with silver, * and whose /
feathers / shine with / gold.**

14 'When the Almighty / scattered / kings:

it was as / if it / snowed in / Zalmon.'

19 Prais'd be the Lord daily who / beareth • our / burdens:

even the / God of / our de- / liverance.

20 God is unto us a / God of • sal- / vation:

God is the Lord by / whom • we e- / scape / death.

The first lesson: **Isaiah 44. 1-8**

Office Hymn:

**O thou eternal King most high,
whose blood has brought salvation nigh,
the bonds of death are burst by thee,
and love has won the victory.**

**Ascending to the Father's throne
thou tak'st the kingdom as thine own;
while awestruck angels contemplate
the wondrous change of man's estate.**

**Be thou our joy, O mighty Lord,
as thou wilt be our great reward;
let all our glory be in thee
both now and through eternity.**

MAGNIFICAT (*Luke 1.46*)

- 1 My soul doth / magnify • the / Lord: and my spirit hath re- / joiced in / God
my / Saviour.
- 2 For he / hath re- / garded: the / lowli • ness / of his / handmaiden.
- 3 For be-/hold, from /henceforth: all gener- / ations • shall / call me /blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath / magni- • fied / me: and / holy / is his / name.
- 5 And his mercy is on / them that / fear him: through-/out all / gener- /ations,
- 6 He hath showed / strength • with his / arm: he hath scattered the proud *
in the imagin- / ation / of their / hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty / from their / seat: and hath ex- / alted • the /
humble • and / meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with / good / things: and the rich he hath / sent /
empty • a- / way.
- 9 He re- /membering • his / mercy: hath / helped his / servant / Israel;
- 10 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 / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, * is now, and / ever / shall be: world without /
end. / A- / men.

The second lesson is read from the New Testament.

SIT

Ephesians 4. 7-16

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Luke 2.29*)

STAND

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de- / part in / peace:
ac-/ cording / to thy / word.**
 - 2 For mine eyes have / seen • thy sal- / vation:
which thou hast prepared before the / face of / all / peoples.**
 - 3 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 / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, * is now, and / ever / shall be:
world without / end. / A- / men.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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 Spirit,
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 is seated
at 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 Spirit;
the Holy Catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SIT or KNEEL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, 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.**

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

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

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

O Lord, save the Queen;
And give her counsellors wisdom.

Give peace in our time, O Lord;
And evermore mightily defend us.

Make clean our hearts, O God;
And renew a right spirit within us.

The Collect of the day.

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Second Collect, for Peace

Almighty 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 that, being defended by thee from the fear of our enemies, we may pass our time in rest and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for aid against all perils

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. **Amen.**

The Anthem: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (C.Lee Williams)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on Thee.
The darkness is no darkness with Thee,
But the light is as clear as the day:
The darkness and light to Thee are both alike.
God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.
O let my soul live, and it shall praise Thee.

The Intercessions

The Grace

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

Closing Hymn:

**Jesus is King and I will extol Him,
Give Him the glory and honour His name.
He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens,
Word of the Father, exalted for us.**

**We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,
Gone through the curtain and touching the throne,
We have a Priest who is there interceding,
Pouring His grace on our lives day by day.**

**We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,
Clothed in His Glory and bearing His name
Laying our lives with gladness before Him;
Filled with His Spirit we worship the King.**

**O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;
Thrilled with Your goodness we give You our praise.
Angels in light with worship surround Him.
Jesus, our Saviour, forever the same.**

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