



**ST. DAVID'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION**  
Liturgy of the Word  
May 21, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

**Celebrant and Preacher** The Rev. Cameron Spoor, Curate

**Music** Dr. David Stevens, Director of Music  
Eric Mellenbruch, Assoc. Director of Music + organist  
Kate Winchester, mezzo soprano

🌸 The flowers on the High Altar are given  
in honor of the clergy and staff at St. David's 🌸

*Connecting people to God, one another, and the world from downtown Austin since 1848*

## WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

We are so glad you are worshiping with us today. Even though we are in a new phase of church life, we are committed to offering a meaningful worship experience for all who tune in to our virtual services (Liturgy of the Word at 9 a.m. and Compline at 8 p.m. on Sundays). Formation for children, youth, and adults is offered after the morning service at [The Abbey at St. David's](#).

We miss seeing you in person and long for the day when we can be back together. Until then, we hold you in our hearts, and hope you enjoy the service.

## NEW TO ST. DAVID'S?

If you are new to St. David's we especially welcome you! If you want more information about the church, please email Amy Moehnke ([Amy.M@stdave.org](mailto:Amy.M@stdave.org)), our Minister for Newcomers, and she will get back to you very soon!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have prayer requests, you can add a comment on Facebook during the service or send them to [prayers@stdave.org](mailto:prayers@stdave.org).

## STAY CONNECTED

Please connect with us to receive updates on events and church announcements.

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## THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

The Ascension of Christ is celebrated, forty days after Easter, as one of seven Principal Feasts of the Church year. The accounts of the Ascension in St Luke's Gospel and Acts of the Apostles put into vivid, physical terms what is already affirmed and explored particularly in the Epistles to the Ephesians and the Hebrews (both read in large part at the Daily Office in Ascensiontide), and these images both spiritual and physical are echoed in the prayers and psalmody (8, 24, 47, 68) appointed for the feast and in several excellent hymns (chief among them 214, 215, 435, 460). The Ascension marks the completion, in a sense, of Christ's work on earth; the Church gives thanks for his sojourn among us and celebrates the Son's return to his rightful place to reign beside the Father. Christ enters heaven as a triumphant hero, having freed us from sin and death.

But that is not all: Christ has not only ascended to the Father, but has done so precisely as a man. Not only was human flesh deemed worthy for the Word to put on at his Incarnation; it was not cast off upon his return to heaven but rather, redeemed and transformed, taken to the very Throne of God. Thus the renewed Creation of which Christ is the first fruits becomes part of heaven itself.

And yet, from our limited perspective, Christ's work seems incomplete. Indeed, Our Lord tells his followers that he must depart so that this promise may be fulfilled; the Teacher must leave the students to grow to maturity; the divine presence discernible by the physical senses must yield to that perceptible by the spiritual through faith, for the increase thereof; the Son's power, for a while concentrated in his single human body, will now be dispersed among his new Body, the Church, and his Body, the Sacrament, by the outpouring of the Spirit.

In Ascensiontide, then, in company with the first disciples, the Church awaits the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, praying for the gifts which the Apostle describes as the direct corollary of Christ's Ascension, by which the faithful will grow into the 'full stature of Christ', 'for building up the Body of Christ'. Then, empowered by the Spirit the Church takes up afresh the work given her by Our Lord: to bear witness to the fulfillment of God's promises and purposes in Christ, to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name to all nations.

Finally, we are promised, Christ will come again 'in the same way that he ascended'. What is this way? With blessing, says St Luke. And then will be completed what we even now affirm:  
*there we sit in heavenly places, there with thee in glory stand.*

### INTROIT

Men of Galilee, why do you stand and gaze in wonder up into heaven? Alleluia.  
In the same way that you saw him ascending into heaven,  
he will come again, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.  
God reigns over the nations; God sits up on his holy throne.

## ENTRANCE HYMN 215

☒ See the Conqueror mounts in triumph

*In Babilone*



1 See the Con - queror mounts in tri - umph; see the King in  
2 He who on the cross did suf - fer, he who from the  
3 Thou hast raised our hu - man na - ture on the clouds to



roy - al state, rid - ing on the clouds, his  
grave a - rose, he has van - quished sin and  
God's right hand: there we sit in heaven - ly



char - iot, to his heaven - ly pal - ace gate!  
Sa - tan; he by death has spoiled his foes.  
plac - es, there with thee in glo - ry stand.



Hark! the choirs of an - gel voic - es joy - ful  
While he lifts his hands in bless - ing, he is  
Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels; Man with



al - le - lu - ias sing, and the por - tals  
part - ed from his friends; while their ea - ger  
God is on the throne; might - y Lord, in



high are lift - ed to re - ceive their heaven - ly King.  
eyes be - hold him, he up - on the clouds a - scends.  
thine as - cen - sion, we by faith be - hold our own.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

☒ The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS: HYMN 421

✠ All glory be to God on high

*Allein Gott in der Höb sei Ehr*



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from  
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther  
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -



hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be  
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -  
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who



to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for  
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and  
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,



your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.  
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.  
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

The Lord be with you.

✠ And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

### COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

BCP, p. 174

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. ✠ Amen.

*(Please be seated.)*

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Pam O'Conner

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, “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.”

The Word of the Lord.

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE:** Psalm 47 (*Please sing the refrain after the Cantor and at appointed times.*)

**BCP, p. 650**



God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

*from Gradual Psalms for the RCL, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated*

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.

✘ **Refrain**

- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

✘ **Refrain**

- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.

✘ **Refrain**

- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

✘ **Refrain**

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.



SEQUENCE HYMN 219 (Please stand and sing.)

✦ The Lord ascendeth up on high

*Ach Herr, du allerhöchster Gott*

1 The Lord a - scend - eth up on high, the Lord hath tri - umphed  
 2 The heavens with joy re - ceive their Lord, by saints, by an - gel  
 3 Our great High Priest hath gone be - fore, up - on his Church his

glo - rious - ly, in power and might ex - cel - ling;  
 hosts a - dored; O day of ex - ul - ta - tion!  
 grace to pour; and still his love he giv - eth.

the grave and hell are cap - tive led. Lo! he re -  
 O earth, a - dore thy glo - rious King! His ris - ing,  
 O may our hearts to him a - scend; may all with -

turns, our glo - rious Head, to his e - ter - nal dwell - ing.  
 his as - cen - sion sing with grate - ful a - dor - a - tion!  
 in us up - ward tend to him who ev - er liv - eth!



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

✠ **Glory be to thee, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL:** Luke 24:44-53

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.

✠ **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**SERMON:** The Rev. Cameron Spoor, Curate

**THE NICENE CREED** (*Please stand.*)

**BCP, p. 358**

✠ **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP, p. 328

Kate Winchester

### *Celebrant*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

### *The Intercessor continues*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Kai, Jeff, and Hector, our Bishops; and Alinafe, Bishop of Southern Malawi, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald our President, Greg our Governor, and Steve our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Special petitions may be offered.* You are invited to offer your own petitions at this time.

*The People may offer their own petitions.*

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those for whom prayers have been requested through St. David's, those who are suffering from Covid-19, those who are caring for all the ill, those providing supplies to the caregivers, and those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Ruth, Nan, Malcolm, Art, Boyd, and those who have died from Covid-19, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of blessed David of Wales and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

✠ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

✠ **Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

**ANTHEM:** *Christus ist heut gen Himml gefahrn*

Johann Crüger

Today the Risen Christ ascends:  
the King of glory heavenward wends.

He sits upon the Father's right,  
and rightly shares the Father's might.

O Galileans, look and see,  
and in the Lord rejoice with glee.

The Lord was taken from your sight;  
he shall return all to make right.

On this most solemn day of days,  
give we to God our highest praise.

Blest be the Holy Trinity,  
from now unto eternity.

*German, after the medieval Latin 'Ascendit Christus hodie'  
tr. Eric Mellenbruch*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

✠ **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.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ✠ **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE:** Prelude on the Introit for Ascension Day

Paul Maleingreau

### **A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist**

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*Written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787*

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are most grateful for your financial support as we navigate new ways to connect to each other in these challenging times. Your gifts directly enable us to use modern technology to stay connected to each other and the world. St. David's depends on the ongoing support and care of committed members of our congregation like you.

Your generosity and commitment to St. David's will be processed and posted to your account. We want to respect your preferred way of giving:

- Checks

Please mail your check to the church. We are able to receive mail and deposit checks via a remote deposit check scanner. Our address is 301 E. 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

- Online [Click here to donate!](#)

If you experience a delay or connection issue during peak times on Sunday, please try giving at a later time or consider setting up a recurring donation through your bank. We apologize for this inconvenience.

- Text STDAVE to 73256.

- If you are not already giving, please consider making St. David's your giving priority this year.

Thank you for your generosity to God and St. David's Episcopal Church.