



St John's Cathedral 聖公會聖約翰座堂

Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

The Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, 9th May 2024

1.15pm Said Eucharist

7.30pm Sung Eucharist



If you receive Holy Communion in any Christian tradition you are very welcome to receive at our altar.

Information about St John's Cathedral and its ministries can be found on the notice boards and the website (www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk).

Gathering

The celebrant welcomes the people.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

All STAND to sing the INTROIT HYMN, during which the clergy process in.

Introit Hymn (REH 171i, omit *)

1. **Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluya!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!**
2. **There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!
Take the King of glory in! Alleluya!**
6. **Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!**
7. **There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
Partners of thine endless reign, Alleluya!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluya!**

Tune: LLANFAIR Melody by Robert Williams of Anglesey 1781-1821

Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788 and Thomas Cotterill 1779-1823

The celebrant censes the altar.

Greeting

The celebrant then greets the people

In the name of the ☩ Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

God has gone up with a shout,

All The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

The celebrant then introduces the celebration in these words.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us celebrate the story of his parting.

Prayers of Penitence

The celebrant uses this Invitation to Confession.

Christ has gone up on high, leading captivity captive
and bringing gifts for men.
As we prepare ourselves here to meet him
in the courts of heaven
let us call to mind our many failures and sins.

All SIT or KNEEL. Silence is kept.

**All Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

1.15pm: Said; 7.30pm: Festive Eucharist (Noel Rawsthorne)

(Choir) Lord, have mercy.	All	Lord, have mercy.
(Choir) Christ, have mercy.	All	Christ, have mercy.
(Choir) Lord, have mercy.	All	Lord, have mercy.

The celebrant pronounces the absolution.

May God our Father ☩ forgive you your sins,
and bring you to the fellowship of his table
with his saints for ever.

All **Amen.**

All STAND.

Gloria in Excelsis

1.15pm: Said; 7.30pm: Festive Eucharist (Noel Rawsthorne)

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

All REMAIN STANDING.

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord
will lead us to eternal life.

Silence is kept.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

All SIT.

First Reading

Acts 1. 1-11 (NRSV)

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 over the course of 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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Ps. 47 (Common Worship)

All **Sing praises to God, the King of all the earth.**

(Choir) Clap your hands together, all you peoples; •
O sing to God with shouts of joy.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared; •
he is the great King over all the earth.

All **Sing praises to God, the King of all the earth.**

(Choir) He subdued the peoples under us •
and the nations under our feet.
He has chosen our heritage for us, •
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

All **Sing praises to God, the King of all the earth.**

(Choir) God has gone up with a merry noise, •
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
O sing praises to God, sing praises; •
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

All **Sing praises to God, the King of all the earth.**

(Choir) For God is the King of all the earth; •
sing praises with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations; •
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

All Sing praises to God, the King of all the earth.

(Choir) The nobles of the peoples are gathered together •
with the people of the God of Abraham.
For the powers of the earth belong to God •
and he is very highly exalted.

All Sing praises to God, the King of all the earth.

Second Reading

Eph. 1. 15-23 (NRSV)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

All STAND to face the Gospel.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

During the GRADUAL HYMN, the Gospel book is carried into the Nave.

Gradual Hymn (NEH 173)

1. **O King most high of earth and sky
On prostrate death thou treadest,
And with thy blood dost mark the road
Whereby to heaven thou leadest.**

2. **O Christ, behold thine orphaned fold,
Which thou hast borne with anguish,
Steeped in the tide from thy rent side;
O leave us not to languish!**

3. **The glorious gain of all thy pain
Henceforth dost thou inherit;
Now comes the hour, then gently shower
On us thy promised Spirit!**

*Tune: ACH GOTT UND HERR Later version of a melody in
Neu-Leipziger Gesangbuch 1682*

Text: Latin Breviary Hymn (Supreme Rector coelitum) 17th cent. tr. William Blew 1808-94

Gospel Reading
Luke 24. 44-end (NRSV)

The acclamation heralding the Gospel reading is proclaimed.

(All) Alleluia, alleluia.

(Choir) Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All SIT.

Sermon

**All 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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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 Intercession

The celebrant introduces the prayers by saying

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,
seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

All SIT or KNEEL. The intercessor continues

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your brothers and sisters in need,
distress or sorrow ...
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises ...
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us
for work in your service ...

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

The celebrant concludes the prayers by saying

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Liturgy of the Sacrament

All STAND.

Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'.
Alleluia.

**All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Taking of the Bread and Wine

All REMAIN STANDING.

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

*All REMAIN STANDING as the collection is taken. The celebrant censes the gifts and the altar.
The thurifer censes the president, clergy and people.*

Offertory Hymn (REH 387i)

- 1. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluya, alleluya,
Jesus, true and Living Bread!**
- 2. Here our humblest homage pay we;
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluya, alleluya,
Thou art here, we ask not how.**
- 3. Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluya, alleluya,
We in worship join with them.**
- 4. Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain,
Alleluya, alleluya,
Cleansing souls from every stain.**
- 5. Life-imparting heavenly manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluya, alleluya,
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

*Tune: ST HELEN George Clement Martin 1844-1916
Text: G. H. Bourne 1840-1925*

The celebrant says the Prayer over the Gifts.

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

All REMAIN STANDING.

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.
Born of a woman,
he came to the rescue of our human race.
Dying for us,
he trampled death and conquered sin.
By the glory of his resurrection
he opened the way to life eternal
and by his ascension,
gave us the sure hope
that where he is we may also be.
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
 Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
 Christ has died:
 Christ is risen:
 Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary
St John the Evangelist, St Stephen, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

All SIT.

Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
All Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Agnus Dei

1.15pm: Said; 7.30pm: Festive Eucharist (Noel Rawsthorne)

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The celebrant invites the people to receive Communion saying:

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The celebrant and people receive communion. If you are baptized in any Christian tradition you are very welcome to receive Holy Communion at our altar.

Words of the distribution are said and the communicants reply.

Amen.

Those who are not baptized are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. Please keep your arms crossed upon your breast as an indication.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

Anthem

Ascendens Christus (Jacob Handl)

Ascendens Christus in altum,
captivam duxit captivitatem:
dedit dona hominibus. Alleluia.

*When he ascended on high
he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people. Alleluia.*

Words: Eph. 4. 8

Communion Antiphon

Psallite Domino

Prayers after Communion

Let us pray:

All STAND. Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

Dismissal

Blessing

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
All **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
All **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, ☩ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Dismissal

The deacon/celebrant now dismisses the people with these words.

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

All REMAIN STANDING as the ministers depart.

Recessional Hymn (REH 498i)

- 1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**
- 2. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.**
- 3. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.**
- 4. To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name like incense shall arise
With every morning sacrifice.**
- 5. Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honours to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the long Amen.**

Tune: TRURO Psalmodia Evangelica 1789

Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Organ Voluntary

Capriccio sopra re mi fa sol (Giovanni de Macque)

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