

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH
DUBLIN**



**FESTAL EVENSONG
FOR THE FEAST OF ASCENSION**

THURSDAY 26 MAY 2022

SUNG BY THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Cathedral Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection—of leaving ourselves open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service.

We welcome you to share with us in worship that has been offered here for nearly a thousand years. Cathedrals with a great choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the medieval offices of Vespers and Compline. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

The choice of scripture readings is from the ecumenical lectionary now in use in the Church of Ireland, reading through the different books of the Bible, little by little, day by day. Today's readings will be continued tomorrow.

There are no announcements during services. Please join strongly in all spoken parts and in the singing of hymns (where these are appointed). To aid reflection you are invited to *sit* during the singing of the psalm(s) and the canticles.

Ascension, in Christian belief, the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection (Easter being reckoned as the first day). The Feast of the Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians. The feast has been celebrated 40 days after Easter in both Eastern and Western Christianity since the 4th century. Prior to that time, the Ascension was commemorated as a part of the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The meaning of the Ascension for Christians is derived from their belief in the glorification and exaltation of Jesus following his death and Resurrection, as well as from the theme of his return to God the Father. Thus, the Gospel According to John uses both the sayings of Jesus and his post-Resurrection appearances to indicate a new relationship between Jesus and his Father and between him and his followers, rather than a simple physical relocation from earth to heaven.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand when the choir and clergy enter and for the singing of the hymn.



**Eternal Monarch, King most high,
Whose blood hath brought redemption nigh,
By whom the death of Death was wrought,
And conquering grace's battle fought:**

**Ascending to the throne of might,
And seated at the Father's right,
All power in heaven is Jesu's own,
That here his manhood had not known.**

**Yea, angels tremble when they see
How changed is our humanity;
For flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,
And God, the flesh of God, hath reigned.**

**Be thou our joy and strong defence,
Who art our future recompense,
So shall the light that springs from thee
Be ours through all eternity.**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One. Amen.**

Tune: Gonfalon Royal
Percy Buck (1871–1947)

Latin c. 5th century
trans. J.M. Neale (1818–1866)

PRECES Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise,
Cantor O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.
Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;
Choir as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.
Cantor Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's Name be praised

Please sit for PSALM 47 sung by the choir

O clap your hands together, all ye people: O sing unto God with the voice of melody. For the Lord is high, and to be feared: he is the great King upon all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us: and the nations under our feet. He shall choose out an heritage for us: even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved. God is gone up with a merry noise: and the Lord with the sound of the trump. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God: O sing praises, sing praises unto our King. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon his holy seat. The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham: for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield. *Please stand*

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. *Please sit*

THE FIRST LESSON – Acts 1:1-11

MAGNIFICAT

JACK OADES (b.1994) THE ST. BRIDE'S SERVICE

The song of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 shewed 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.

Please stand

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. *Please sit*

THE SECOND LESSON – Luke 24:44-53

NUNC DIMITTIS

JACK OADES (b.1994) THE ST. BRIDE'S SERVICE

The song of Simeon

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. *Please stand*

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 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 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 Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSES Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

Cantor The Lord be with you

Choir and with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray

Please kneel or sit

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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;

Choir and grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, guide and defend our rulers;

Choir and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir and make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people;

Choir and bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Choir because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir and take not thy holy Spirit from us.

The Collect, of the Day

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 Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace

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. 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.

ANTHEM

God is gone up with a triumphant shout,
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies,
Sing Praise, Sing Praises out,
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!
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.

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Edward Taylor (1646-1729), *Sacramental Meditations*

THE PRAYERS

FINAL 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
Jeremiah Clarke (c. 1673-1707)

Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

THE BLESSING

FINAL RESPONSES

Cantor The Lord be with you;
Choir and with thy Spirit,
Cantor Let us bless the Lord
Choir Thanks be to God.

Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

Please stand for the procession of choir and clergy and sit for the

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

which concludes the service



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