



Ascension, Mural of Christ ascending to heaven on a graffiti wall in Bristol, England (2003)

The Cathedral Eucharist on The Day of Ascension

Thursday 29 May 2025, 7.30pm

Welcome to this morning's service

The President is
The Revd James Lawrence
Canon Missioner

The Deacon and Preacher is

The Revd Neil Kelley

Honorary Canon & Rector of St. Laurence's Chorley

The Subdeacon is Mihaela Mladin

The service is sung by the **Blackburn Chamber Choir**

Directed by John Robinson Organist and Director of Music

The organ is played by **John Robinson** Organist and Director of Music

The setting for the service is Viadana Missa L'hora Passa

The service is live streamed.

There will be refreshments served, after the service

The Gathering

Please remain seated as the ministers move to the west end of the Cathedral Please stand to sing as the ministers enter and the choir sing

Processional hymn

LLANFAIR 130 i



Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluya! glorious to his native skies; Alleluya! Christ, awhile to mortals giv'n, Alleluya! enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

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!

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!

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!

Charles Wesley (1707-88) and Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823)

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

The president introduces the service

Introduction

Dear sisters and brothers 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. Let us sing his praises.

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 hear the story of his parting.

The Ascension Reading

Read by Barbara Robb

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

(Acts 1.1-11)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that lesus 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, Jesus 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 lesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The deacon says

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

The Gloria

The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to those of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you. We give thanks to you for your great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord the only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ.
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you that take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
You that take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
You who are seated at the right hand of
the Father, have mercy upon us.

For you alone are holy, 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.

The Collect

The president says

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

Silence is kept - please remain standing

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.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Read by John Wilson

(Daniel 7.9-14)

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
A stream of fire issued

and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousand served him.

and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.

I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Ego rogabo Patrem, et alium Paraclitum dabit vobis, ut maneat vobiscum in aeternum Spiritum veritatis, alleluia. And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate,
to be with you for ever
the Spirit of truth, alleluia
Andrea Gabrielli (1532-1533)

New Testament Reading

(Ephesians 1.15-23)

Read by Jean Duerden

A reading from the Letter 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

ST MAGNUS 134



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.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

The deacon says (Luke 24.44-53)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Alleluia.

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

Sermon

Canon Neil Kelley

There is a period of silence after the sermon for reflection

Please stand with the president

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.

Please sit

The Prayers of Intercession

Led by Louise Hicks

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority. Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

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.

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.

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus, 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.

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.

Lord, graciously hear us.

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.

Amen.

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

Please stand with the president for the peace

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president says

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'.

John 14.27,28

Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you. and also with you. Alleluia.

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share the peace with one another joyfully

During the offertory hymn a collection is taken, please give what you prayerfully can.

You may prefer to use the collection point or card reader on the way out. If you are a UK taxpayer, please use the blue gift aid form provided.

If you would prefer to give online, please visit <u>blackburncathedral.co.uk/donate</u>

Preparation of the Table

The president prepares the table

Please remain standing to sing the hymn during which there will be a collection

Offertory hymn

HYFRYDOL 271



Alleluia, sing to Jesus, his the sceptre, his the throne; alleluia, his the triumph, his the victory alone: hark, the songs of peaceful Sion thunder like a mighty flood: Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; alleluia, he is near us, faith believes, nor questions how: though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia, bread of angels, thou on earth our food, our stay; alleluia, here the sinful flee to thee from day to day: intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, plead for me, where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own; alleluia, born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne: thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest; thou on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.

W Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

Eucharistic Prayer



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:

It is indeed right and good,

The choir sings

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

The deacon says

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Mary, Paul and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as we join our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so we pray, each in our own language, as our Saviour taught us,

Notre père, qui es aux cieux ... Missierna, li inti fis-smewwiet... Vater unser im Himmel ... Padre nosso, que estais nos céus... Padre nostro che sei nei cieli ... Ojcze nasz, któryś jest w niebie... Otče náš, jenž jsi na nebesích ... و السَّمَاوَاتِ، Tève Mūsų, kuris esi danguje! ... Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd... Tatal nostru care esti in ceruri ...

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

If you are able, please remain standing while the choir sings

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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

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

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

The Giving of Communion

The president says

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia. The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.

Communion is available in both kinds, and the minister distributing bread will say

The body of Christ. Amen.

To receive the bread, or a blessing, please walk down the central aisle as directed by a steward. To receive wine blease move to the chalice at the side

The minister distributing wine will say

The blood of Christ. Amen.

If you do not wish to receive communion wine, please walk past that second distribution point, and return to your place by the side aisles of the Nave

While you are waiting to go for communion you may wish to sit

During communion

The choir sings

Ascendens Christus in altum. captivam duxit captivitatem;

dedit dona hominibus.

Alleluia.

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

Text from the responsory for Matins at Ascension, Ephesians 4.8 Music by Jacob Handl (1550-91)

Prayer after Communion

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. Amen.

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.

The Dismissal

Reading

(Acts 1.12,13a,14)

Read by the deacon

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Silence is kept

Responsory

The president says

As we wait in silence, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering, make us ready for your coming Spirit.

Final Hymn

St Helen



Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour, first-begotten from the dead, thou alone, our strong defender, liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesu, true and living bread.

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.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou art here, we ask not how.

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.

Alleluia! Alleluia! We in worship join with them.

Paschal lamb, thine offering, finished once for all when thou wast slain, in its fullness undiminished shall for evermore remain, Alleluia! Alleluia! Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna, stricken rock with streaming side, heaven and earth with loud hosanna worship thee, the lamb who died, Alleluia! Alleluia! Risen, ascended, glorified!

George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925) alt

The Blessing

The president pronounces God's blessing

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The deacon says

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Please remain for refreshments

The Organ Voluntary

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