# GRACE EPISCOPAL Church



Ascension Day May 29, 2025

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WE are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

> The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector* Cell phone: 203-209-4178 Church office: 860-233-0825 Email: <u>RevRowena@gracehartford.org</u>

The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate* The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest* The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest* The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest* Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist* 

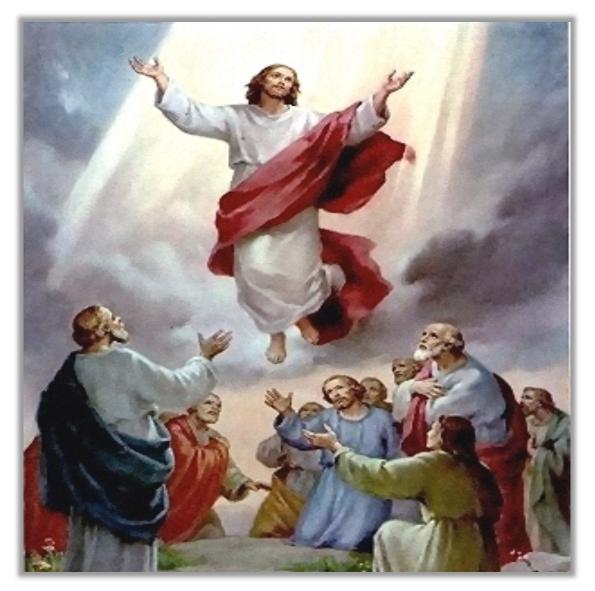
The Vestry

Claudia Gwardyak, *Senior Warden;* Barbara Galbreath, *Junior Warden* Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk* Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer;* Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer* Adrianne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa, Sheryl Rifkin, Gregory Simmons

**ELCOME** to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *ASCENSION* DAY. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.



## GRACE EPISCOPAL Church

### Ascension Day

May 29, 2025

Solemn High Mass

6:00 P.M.

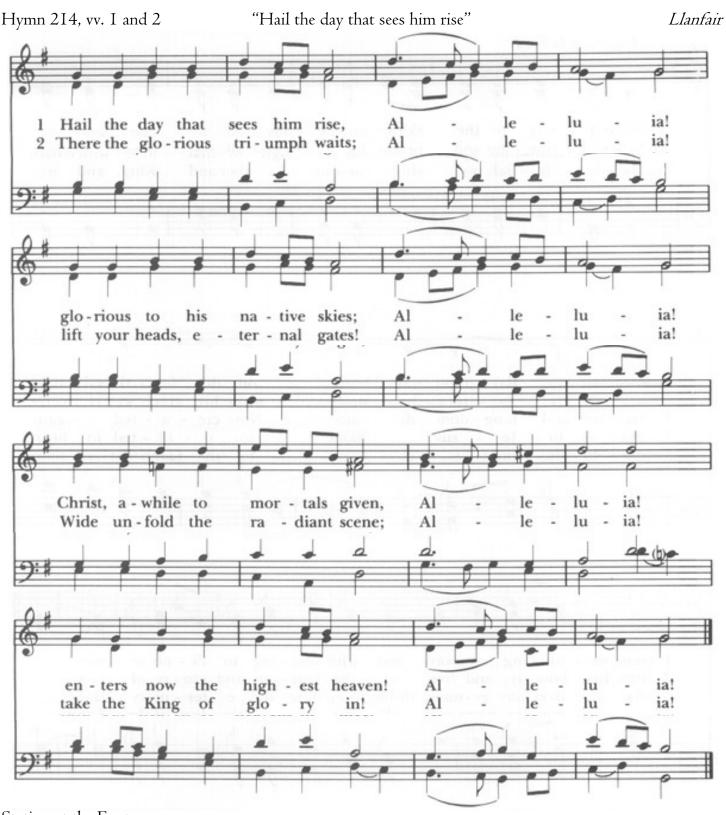
Mass Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass is for congregational singing.* Healey Willan (d. 1968)

Voluntary: Agincourt Carol

### THE PROCESSION

Celebrant:Alleluia!Christ is risen!People:The Lord is risen indeed!Alleluia!Celebrant:Let us go forth in peace.People:In the Name of Christ.Amen.

John Dunstable (d. 1453)



Station at the Font

- $\vec{R}$ : Let heaven and earth rejoice, alleluia.

Let us pray.

WE thank thee, heavenly Father, for that thou hast delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and hast brought us into the kingdom of thy Son; and we pray thee that, as by his death he hath recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to joys eternal; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

Hymn 214, v. 3. "Hail the day that sees him rise"





Station at the Rood Beam

- $\mathcal{V}$ : Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness.
- $\vec{R}$ : And let thy saints sing with joyfulness.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross Athat he might draw the whole world unto himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*  Hymn 214, v. 4. "Hail the day that sees him rise"

#### Llanfair

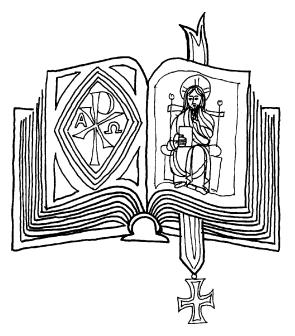


Concluding Collect at the High Altar

 $\vec{R}$ : And the Lord with the sound of the trumpet, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.* 



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Introit (choir) Viri Galilaei

Mode VII

(Antiphon) YE MEN OF GALILEE, why do ye stand in wonder, gazing up into heaven? alleluia: in the same way that ye have seen him going up into heaven, so shall he return, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (*Psalm*) O clap your hands, all ye peoples; O shout to God with a cry of joy. 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. [*Repeat antiphon.*]

### Collect for Purity

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom Ano secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

 $T^{\rm HOU}$  shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.





The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. *People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

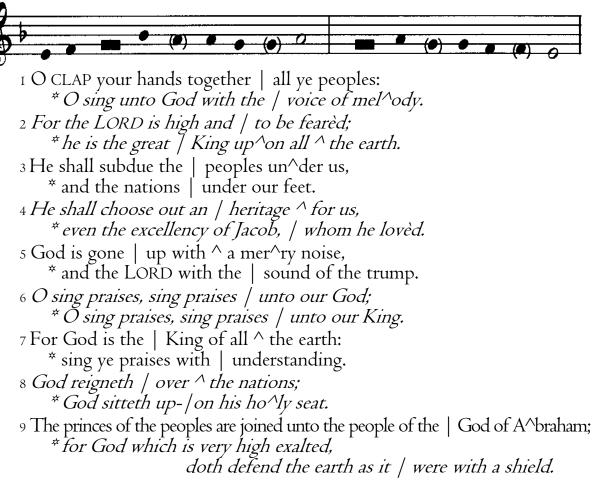
GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen*.



The First Lesson: The Acts of the Apostles I: I-II [NRSV] A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

**T**N the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the Leginning 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. Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

9



The Epistle: Ephesians I: 15-23 [NRSV]

A reading from the Letter of Paul 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

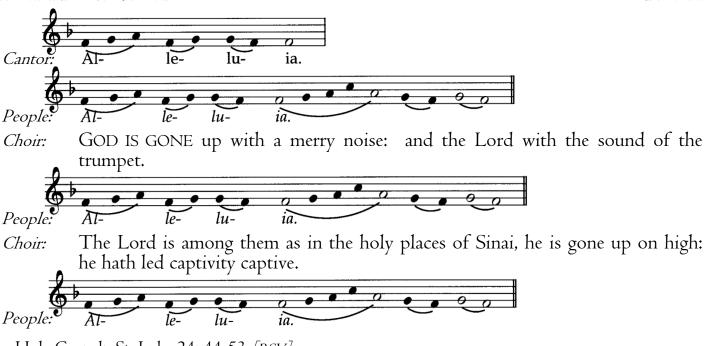
pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the 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.

Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia Ascendit Deus



The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 24: 44-53 [RSV]

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People:* ➡ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THEN he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are 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 blessed them, he parted from them. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

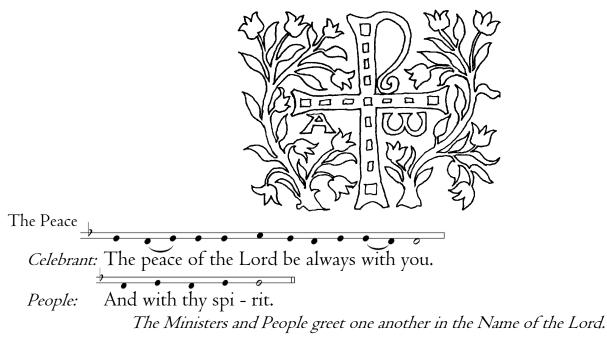
The Nicene Creed (said by all)

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector* 

Prayer Book p. 327

IBELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

| The Prayers        | s of the People Form IV  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1                  |  |
| _                  |  |
| Leader:            | Let us pray for the Church and   for the world.  |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |
|                    | Grant almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. <i>(Silence)</i> |
|                    | <i>People</i>  |
|                    |  |
|                    | Lord, in thy mer - cy hear our prayer. (Sung after every intercession)   |
| Leader:            |  |
| Ltdyti             | peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. <i>(Silence)</i>   |
|                    | Lord, in thy mercy <i>People:</i> hear our prayer.   |
| Leader:            | Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its   |
|                    | resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon-/or and glory. (Silence)   |
|                    | Lord, in thy mercy <i>People:</i> hear our prayer.   |
| Leader:            |  |
|                    | hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. <i>(Silence)</i>   |
|                    | Lord, in thy mercy <i>People:</i> hear our prayer.   |
| Leader:            | We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our   |
|                    | armed forces at home and abroad <i>[especially N.]</i> . Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give |
|                    | them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of  |
|                    | thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (Silence)   |
|                    | Lord, in thy mercy <i>People:</i> hear our prayer.   |
| Leader:            | Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (pause); give   |
|                    | them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy   |
|                    | salvation. <i>(Silence)</i>  |
| Landort            | Lord, in thy mercy <i>People:</i> hear our prayer.We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be                                     |
| LCdQCI+            | fulfilled ( <i>pause</i> ); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e-/ternal   |
|                    | kingdom. (Silence)   |
|                    | Lord, in thy mercy <i>People:</i> hear our prayer.   |
| Celebran           | t: Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant  |
|                    | that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ   |
|                    | our Lord. People   |
| - <del>0</del> -0- |  |
|                    | <b>A</b>   |





THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. Psalm 50: 14

Offertory (choir) Ascendit Deus

Mode I

OD IS GONE UP with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet, Galleluia.

### Anthem (choir)

Felix Mendelssohn (d. 1847)

 $A^{\text{BOVE}}$  ALL PRAISE AND ALL MAJESTY, Lord, thou reignest evermore. Hallelujah.

Presentation of the alms and oblations

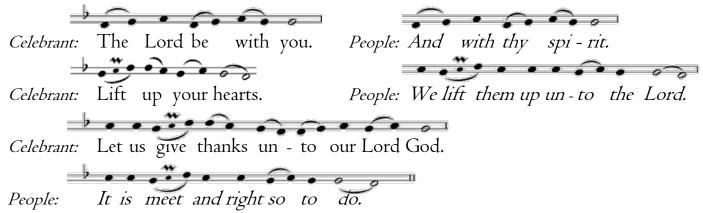
Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

*People:* And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

- *Celebrant:* Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.
- *People:* May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

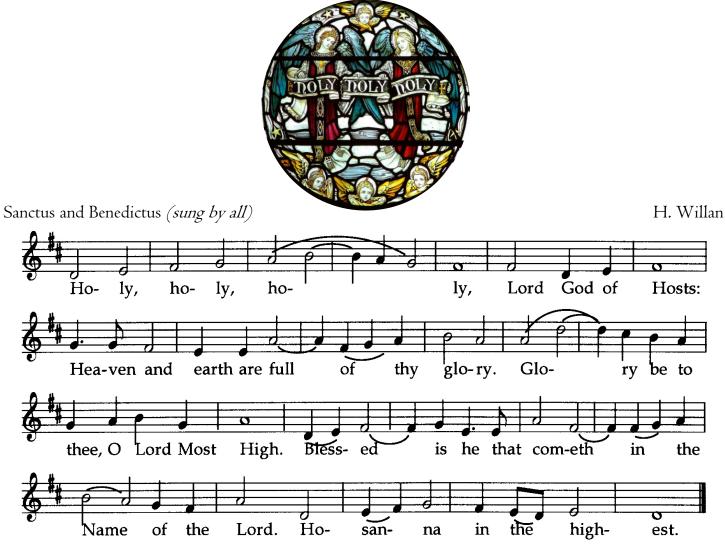
Sursum corda



Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

THROUGH the dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



The Canon of the Mass

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender Mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake 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."  $\blacksquare$ 

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."  $\blacksquare$ 

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, \* be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

 $B^{\rm Y}$  whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be Bunto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

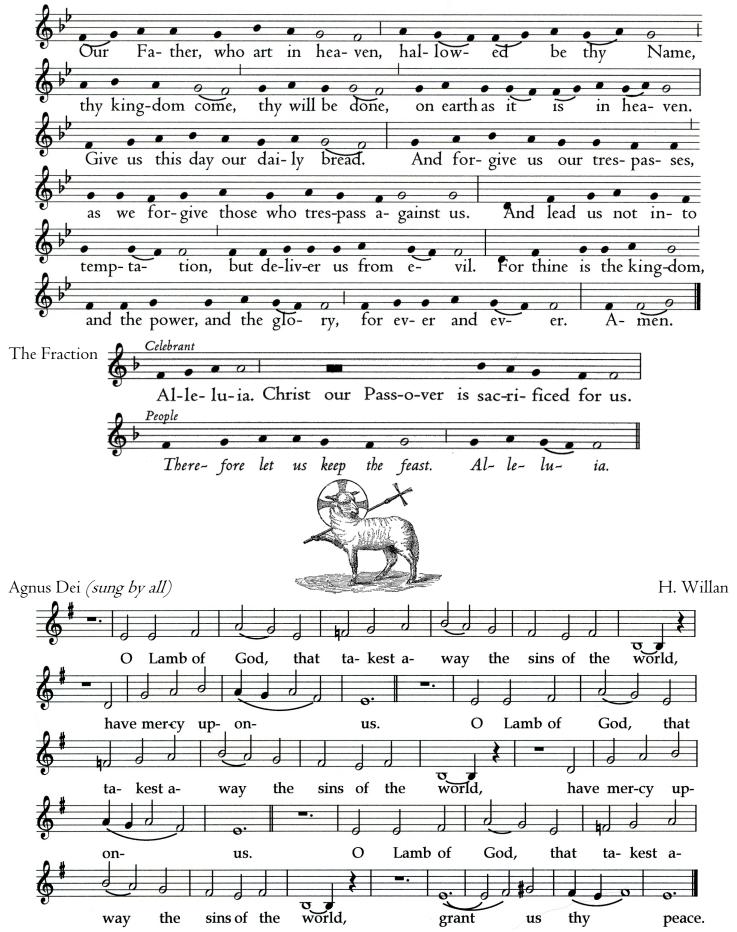
People

A- men.



The Lord's Prayer (sung by all)

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,



Prayer of Humble Access (said by all)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*People:* Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

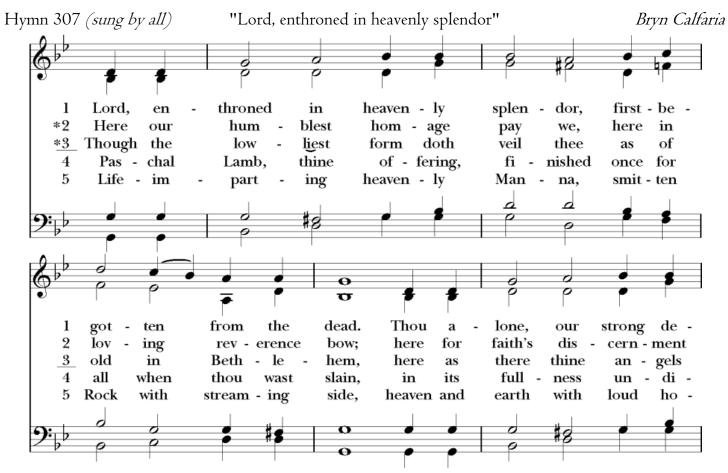
Communion (choir) Psallite Domino

Mode I

SING PRAISES TO THE LORD, who rideth in the heavens, even the ancient heavens to the sunrising, alleluia.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (said by those worshipping virtually)

IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.







Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*People:* Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Easter Blessing

MAY Almighty God, who hath redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.* 

May God, who through the water of baptism hath raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen*.

May God, who hath brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen*.

AND the blessing of God Almighty,  $\mathbf{*}$  the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be Aupon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.* 

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Last Gospel

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

*People:* ➡ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. *(Here genuflect)* And the Word was made flesh, *(Here rise)* and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. *People:* Thanks be to God.

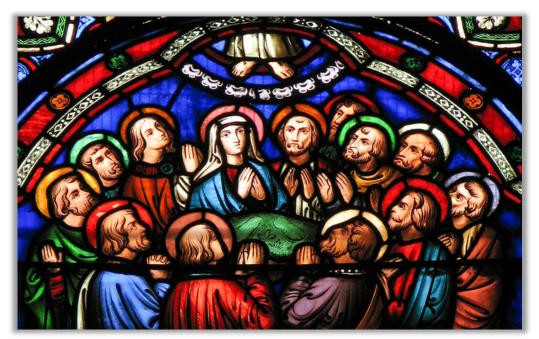


St. John I:I-I4



Voluntary: Bryn Calfaria

Ralph Vaughan Williams (d. 1958)







Albrecht Dürer, from the Small Passion