



Ascension Day

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia
Evening Prayer Rite I

May 9, 2024 at 7:30 P.M.

The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 63.

Tonight's offering is designated for Music Events, which provides underwriting for concerts and special music presentations at Holy Comforter.

OPENING VOLUNTARY: "Prayer from Christ Ascending towards His Father"

Olivier Messiaen

"So now, Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me....

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you."

The people stand as the procession enters the church.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

THE PRECES

David Kelley

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

PHOS HILARON, HYMN 30 "O Trinity of blessed light"

O lux beata Trinitas

Sung by all.

PSALM 47 *Omnes gentes, plaudite*

T. Tertius Noble

Sung by the choir. The people are seated.

- 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.
- 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.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 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.
- 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.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *

and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be forever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

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.

MAGNIFICAT: Evening Service in B-flat Major
Sung by the choir. The people stand.

Charles Villiers Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. 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 showed 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. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON [*The people are seated.*]

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NUNC DIMITTIS: Evening Service in B-flat Major
Sung by the choir. The people stand.

Charles Villiers Stanford

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. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED [*Sung by all, standing.*]

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 Ghost, 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 Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

THE RESPONSES

David Kelley

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.
Choir Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.
Officiant Our Father,
Choir which art in heaven...
but deliver us from evil. Amen.
Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the State.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECTS AND A PRAYER FOR MISSION

ANTHEM: "God Omnipotent Reigneth"
Sung by the choir. The people are seated.

Charles Wood

God omnipotent reigneth, Clad in apparel bright; Sovreign King He remaineth, Girded about with might; By Him the world alone Immutably was grounded; In heav'n hath He His throne, From everlasting founded.	Ocean billow and breaker Uplift the voice of pride; But their mightier Maker Governeth wind and tide. His laws and sure decree Of holiness are telling, Which evermore shall be Sole inmate of His dwelling. Amen.
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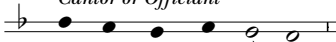
THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING [*Said by all, standing.*]


Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

HYMN 221 "O Lord most high, eternal King"

Gonfalon

CONCLUDING VERSICLE AND RESPONSE, HYMNAL, S 3 I

Cantor or Officiant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING *[The people respond,]*

Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Choral, Op. 37, No. 4

Joseph Jongen

The people remain standing until the procession has left the church. If you would like to stay and hear the entire postlude, please feel free to move toward the front of the nave. You are invited to join us for a reception in the narthex following the service.