

The Sunday after the Ascension

May 17, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



Magic in the Sky (1968) by Gerard Dillon (Irish; 1916 -1971)

The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving

God + Neighbor

204 Monument Road

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The Word of God

The Prelude

Come Away to the Skies trad. American, arr. Dale Wood

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn 214 Hail the day that sees him rise

Llanfair

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the scripture appointed.

The Lessons

A reading from the book of 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."

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

- 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 in/**heritance 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 to/**gether** *
with the people of the God of / **Abraham**.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to / **God**, *
and he is highly ex/**alted**.



A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (1:15-23)

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.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

The Sequence Hymn 219 The Lord ascendeth up on high *Ach Herr, du allerhöchster Gott*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the creed; you may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

The Nicene Creed

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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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 worshiped 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.

The Prayers of the People

Ascended Christ, open our eyes to wider horizons than we have imagined.
That we may find your presence in all people and places.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for our sister parishes across eastern Massachusetts, including today St. John's Chapel at the Groton School; St. Michael's Church, Holliston; St. Paul's Church, Hopkinton; and St. Luke's Church, Hudson. **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

We pray for the world: remembering especially those regions of the world torn apart by war or civil unrest, including Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Nigeria, Venezuela, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and our own nation. We pray for those in every land who suffer for the sake of conscience. We remember those suffering from unemployment, fears, dislocation or deportation. Good shepherd, lead us and all people into ways of justice, safety and peace.
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

We give you thanks for the gift of this fragile earth. For soil and sunlight and wind and water. For all that grows and lives. We repent of our misuse of your miracle. Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it and strengthen in us the capacity to preserve and protect.
Teach us to care creatively for your resources.

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers: Terese Brown, Maureen Cardenas, Sally Drew, Joanne Gamble, Joan Kirkby, Sandra Parry, Andrew Payne, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Matthew, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, Pat and Rachael. We remember all we name before you now. (Pause). God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. **May they know the power of your healing love.**

We remember those who have died, and those we name before you now. (Pause). We remember also with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. **Into your hands we commend them.**

We pray finally for ourselves and our ministries. (Pause). Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and your truth. **May we walk in newness of life.**

Open our minds, O God, to the promise of your Kingdom of Love, that we may see through the pictures and language of our faith to its real meaning and power; then as we move through the troubled ways of life may the heaven in which you dwell be all around and about us, and may the lives we now live be raised to heights unknown. **Amen.**

The Concluding Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you;" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

King of all Ages

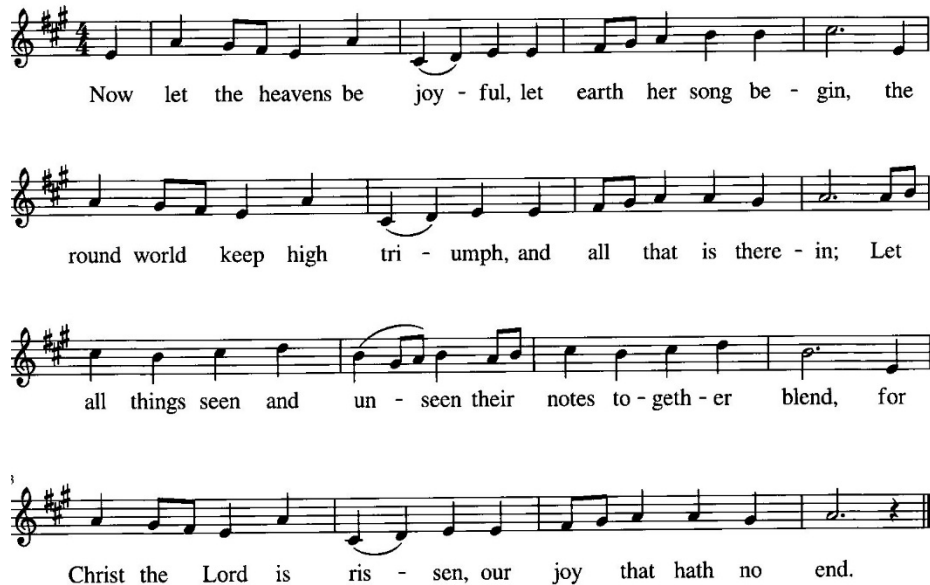
Paul Isom
text: 10th century Latin

King of all ages, throned on high, yet savior too of those with faith,
Death at your onslaught died in fear and grace triumphant rules supreme.
Risen from death, the heavenly Christ receives from God the Father's hand
Power over all created things: A gift he could not know on earth.
Then at your coming on the clouds with shining strength to be our judge,
Cancel the debt we owe you still, give back the glory we have lost.
Glory to you, O Christ our Lord, exalted far beyond our sight,
Reigning forevermore with Father and with Paraclete.

Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.

Hymn 210 Now let the heavens be joyful

Ellacombe



Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin, the
round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in; Let
all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend, for
Christ the Lord is ris - sen, our joy that hath no end.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Christ; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-127 Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hampton

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You may remain standing, sit or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic prayer.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Christ. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, *“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover (S-155)

Near

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the

feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

*All are welcome to receive communion. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available;
please make your needs known to the person serving you.*

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 221 O Lord Most High

Gonfalon Royal

Hymn LEVAS 196 What a fellowship

Anthony Showalter, arr. C. Haywood

Please stand as you are able.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by grace you accept us as living members of your Son Jesus Christ, and feed us with spiritual food in this sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace to do your work of reconciliation as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit may all creation sing hymns of thanks and praise. Amen.

The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Blessing

May the God who raises Jesus to new life, raise us up to good works and new faith. **Amen.**

May the God who raises us up, send us out to be holy people in the world. **Amen.**

May the God who sends us out, gather us again at a table in that kingdom which is both now and forever. **Amen.**

And, may the God of all grace, who creates, redeems and sanctifies all things, bless, preserve and keep you both now and forever. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 460 Alleluia, alleluia! *(omit vs 4)*

Hyfrydol

The Dismissal

Deacon

Let us bless the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Postlude

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

arr. M. Archer

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Nancy J. Hagner
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Patrick C. Ward
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Joan Kirchner
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Brenda Ridgeway, Gail Binney-Sterne
<i>Readers</i>	Rich Gregory, Diana Crighton, Brian Ridgeway
<i>Ushers</i>	Sue and Jack Sasso
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Gail Binney-Sterne
<i>Altar Flower Guild</i>	Roger Lovejoy
<i>Audio/Video</i>	Jen Marlin

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