

Feast of the Ascension

May 17, 2026, 9:30 AM

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Organ Prelude

Interlude, by Eric Thiman

Welcome & Announcements

Basil Souder

Opening Hymn, #214

Hail the day that sees him rise

The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Lord of life
you defeated death
to show that we can rise
from all that binds us to the world
pride, envy, anger, fear
the debt of sin that holds us here
Christ the Lord is risen today

People **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Celebrant Lord of life
You ascended into heaven so that your eternal presence might inspire
those who bring your word of peace
those enslaved by fear
those who bring your word of love
those in need of comfort
Christ the Lord is risen today

People **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Gloria, S280 (see next page)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

The Children's Greeting

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

Jennifer Willard

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."

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 93

Laurie Hyndman

God is Sovereign;
clothed in splendid apparel; *
God is robed in majesty
and is girded with strength.

God has made the whole world so sure *
that it cannot be moved;

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

The waters have lifted up, O God,
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the Holy One who dwells on high.

Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O God,
for ever and for evermore.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

Jennifer Willard

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #253

The Reign of Christ comes not by force

Take Up the Song



1 The reign of Christ comes not by force: no wea - pons clash, no
2 This sov - ereign rules through ser - vant - hood, be - friends all those the
3 His cor - on - a - tion is with thorns, his mon - arch's show, a
4 For now this once re - ject - ed king has claimed a - gain his



le - gions fight; it casts no sha - dow of re - morse but
world counts least, de - nounc - es pride, calls meek - ness good: this
doomed man's march; and yet this stone the build - er scorns be -
heav'n - ly place; In - car - nate love has robbed death's sting and



beck - ons all with truth and light.
prince of peace, this roy - al priest.
comes the key - stone of the arch.
bids us share his reign of grace.

The Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our savior, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, O God.**

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.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Hymn, #219

The Lord ascendeth up on high

The Hymnal 1982

Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith as we say together:
People **We believe in God
who has created and is creating:
who has come in Jesus, to reconcile and make new.**

**We trust God
who calls us to be the church;
to love and serve others;
to seek justice and resist evil;
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Laurie Hyndman

Leader: Risen and Ascended Lord, you have promised to be with us always. Teach us to be aware of your presence and to abide in your love, as we bring to you all our petitions and intercessions.

Moment of silence for reflection.

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

Give to your church a vision of your presence, that we may proclaim your peace and your love. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. In our diocese we pray for Good Shepherd in Rangeley, Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal in Augusta, and for those who advocate for the poor and the oppressed.

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

We pray that your peace may be achieved by us and by our leaders, that all in authority may rule with integrity, honesty, and humility. We pray for peace in places of conflict and violence, especially Sudan, Ukraine, Palestine, Iran, and Lebanon. We pray for all who work to bring about peace and justice, and for protection and courage for service personnel and their families.

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

We give thanks that you are with us always, knowing that your presence transforms our homes and our relationships. We bring before you the needs of our families and friends, ever mindful of how fragile our lives are and how much we need one another. We offer our thanksgivings this day (*pause for intercessions*)

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

Gracious God, your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, welcomed children, blessed them, and taught us that in caring for the least among us, we serve Christ Himself. With the whole Diocese of Maine, we pray for all those engaged in the foster care system: the children who receive care, the foster parents who provide care often at personal sacrifice, social workers and counsellors, and finally we pray for those who relinquish their children to the foster system in hopes that they may find the love and support the child might otherwise not receive. Inspire us by your Spirit to come near to these children and families in prayer and in support.

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

We pray for all who have lost a vision for their future, for those whose lives are clouded with doubt and fear. May they find new hope and strength in you. We pray for those who are ill or with special needs:

Virginia & Jamil; Jenny & Matt; Sasha; Paige; Nathaniel; Haskell; Don; Gregory; Andy; Molly; Nova; Steven; Ted; Matt & Shannon; Lem; Beverly; Hana; Hurshell; Melanie; Susan; Sue; Brooke; Elizabeth; Danny; Nate; Lin; Caroline; Hadley; Ed; Greg; Cathy; Tom; Diane; Kurt; Joe; Kathy; and the Murray family.

And we remember those we name before you now, aloud or silently (*pause for intercessions*).

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

We rejoice that you have ascended into glory and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. As you came to lift us out of darkness into eternal light, we pray for all who are approaching death and for those who mourn. We also pray for our loved ones who are in your eternal presence, especially Francis W. Murray III, "Mike," beloved brother of Cynn timeriques. And we remember those we name before you now, aloud or silently (*pause for intercessions*).

Christ, the King of Glory:
Lift our hearts and minds to you.

Celebrant: Gracious God, whose Son Jesus has lifted all our hopes and prayers to your presence: keep us constant in your love and service, that in all that we do and say we may proclaim your glory with joy and blessing. We pray in Christ's name.
Amen.

Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ is always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with the sign of peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant As Jesus so freely gave himself for us, let us consider the offerings we make to God. For the scriptures say: "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." (*Ephesians 5:2*).

Bread and wine are brought forward while the ushers pass the offering plates.

Offertory Anthem

"Cantate Domino" by Giuseppe Pitoni (*Psalm 149, vs. 1-2*)

*Cantate Domino canticum novum;
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.*

*Laetetur Israël in eo qui fecit eum,
et filii Sion exsultent in rege suo.*

English translation:

Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle:
let his praise be in the church of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:
and let the children of Sion be joyful in their king.

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,
People All that we have is yours, O God, give us also grateful hearts. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

After his glorious resurrection
he openly 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 we praise you,
joining our voices with Angels and Archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who forever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus, S125

(see next page)

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 By his baptism of suffering and death
 you give your church birth into a living hope.
 Raising Jesus from the dead,
 you make a new covenant with us,
 by water and the Spirit,
 and deliver us into freedom.
 We who were no people are now your people,
 declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,
 who calls us out of death's shadow into everlasting life.

On the night when he gave himself up for us,
 he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
 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."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said,
 "Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new Covenant,
 which is shed for you and for all
 for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

On the third day you raised him from the dead
and revealed him to the women
who came to the tomb to care for his body.
On that day he was recognized by his disciples
in the breaking of bread.

And so, remembering these
your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
and we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give you thanks, God of love.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ
that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in loving service to all the world,
until all feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant Gathered into one as the family of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
People

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 Fraction

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

Celebrant Come, for all is now ready! The Gifts of God for the People of God.
People Thanks be to God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward through the center aisle, individuals and families are invited to stand along the rounded edge of the chancel to receive the bread, hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. The Chalice Bearer will follow the Priest with the cup of wine. You are invited to sip from the cup. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive the blessing of the words. If you would prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.

Communion Music 603 When Christ was lifted / 315 Thou who at thy first eucharist *The Hymnal 1982*

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.
People **God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant Go out into the world.
and in your words and in your lives
bear witness to the Christ who has ascended
to be everywhere present.

And as you come to know him,
may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you,
and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ's inheritance.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, #460

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in our Risen Savior. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

March in G, by Henry Smart

Serving in Worship Today

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Chalice Bearer	Laurie Hyndman
Lector	Jennifer Willard
Ushers	Nancy Gunzelmann, Ann Donaghy
Music Director	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Altar Guild	Linda Perkins and Paule French
Flower Arranger	Corey Walmer
A/V	Arthur Woolverton
Bread Baker	Nancy Gunzelmann
Counters	Ann Donaghy, Marcia Sharp
Lawn Care	Kevin Gillan
VPOW	Basil Souder
Coffee Hour	Kathleen Damon & Pam Waite
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	John Perkins

Resources

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Psalm: The St. Helena Breviary translation

Affirmation of Faith: *Jesus Christ, The Life of the World* a Worship book for the sixth assembly of the World Council of Churches © 1983 Geneva Switzerland

Prayers of the People: from *Intercessions: For Sundays, Holy Days, and Special Occasions, Year B* by Stephen J. White © 2008 by Church Publishing Incorporated, New York. Used with permission.

Great Thanksgiving, Post-Communion Prayer: *Enriching Our Worship*

Eucharistic Prayer: St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco, CA.

Blessing: ©2002 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

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