

# The Feast of the Ascension

## May 21, 2023, 9:30 am



The Ascension, Johann Koerbecke

Prelude

“O Lord God, Your Godly Word”

by J.S. Bach

Welcome

Ann Donaghy

Opening Hymn, #215

See the conqueror mounts in triumph

The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant*

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People*

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Gloria, S278



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y 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.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

**THE LESSONS**

**First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11**

*Pal Covie*

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 47

*Carla Hunt*

- 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.

## Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

*Pal Covie*

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 the Churches.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Hymn, #221**

O Lord most high

*The Hymnal 1982*

**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*

**Anthem**

"Confitemini Domino" (Psalm 136:1)

*By Alessandro Constantini*

*O give thanks unto the Lord  
for he is good:  
because his mercy endureth forever.  
Alleluia.*

**Apostle's Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our faith as we say together:

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

*Carla Hunt*

*Leader* When Jesus appeared to his disciples, he met them where they were, but also invited them to step forward and bear witness to his resurrection. As we offer our intercessions and thanksgivings today, may we, too, be living witnesses to the power of the risen Lord.

Gracious God, you have called us to be members of your body in Yarmouth. Bless and guide us as we seek to serve you in this place. Strengthen us as we proclaim your resurrection to the world. Pray, my siblings, for the witness of the Church:

*(pause)*

*People* In your Church, Lord God,  
**May we be your witnesses.**

*Leader* God of wisdom, we pray for all leaders charged with ordering our world's resources, maintaining peace and providing for those in need. Send a spirit of wisdom and compassion, that peace, justice and wisdom may prevail. Pray, beloved, for those in positions of public trust:

*(pause)*

*People* By our words and actions, Lord God,  
**May we be your witnesses.**

*Leader* God our provider, you have given us this pleasant earth as a goodly heritage. May we use its resources wisely and always according to your purpose. Pray for our fragile earth:

*(pause)*

*People* In our stewardship of this earth, Lord God,  
**May we be your witnesses.**

*Leader* Merciful God, we pray for the lonely, the sick and the suffering, the homeless, and for those seeking safety in this country. As they cast their cares upon you, may they experience your presence and healing touch. Pray for those in need this day, especially:

Bobby; Charles; Kellan; Pat; Marcella; Tim; Sam; Matthew; Antonia; Al; Alex; Virginia & Jamil; Ed; Hannah; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Rich, Nancy & Jonathan; Perry; Jim; Matt & Shannon; Elaine; Sasha; Katie; Paige; Anne, Richard & family; Courtney; Dianne; Diane; Karl; Sudon, Aunt Niki; Ron; Nathaniel; Boyd; Terry; Celeste; Will; Tom & Laurel; Caia; Jennifer; Jani & Lisa; Ramsey; Alicita; Nancy A.; Dennis; the Lund family; Robert & Mary; and Karen.

Please add your own intercessions, either silently or aloud.

*(pause)*

*People* As we trust in your healing power, Lord God,  
**May we be your witnesses.**

*Leader* God of Life, you raised Jesus from the dead; Give us assurance that because Jesus lives, we do as well. We remember all who have died and who rest eternally in you, O God, Ruth Lund, great aunt of Rev. Amanda, and Carolyn Yovic.

Please add your own intercessions, either silently or aloud.

*(pause)*

*People* In death, as in life,  
**May we be your witnesses.**

*Leader* God our parent, you sent Jesus to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to yourself. We thank you for your tender mercies. We thank you for the many ways you continue to make yourself known to us. Give thanks for those things that make our hearts glad this day: Please offer your own thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

*(pause)*

*People* In our lives, Lord,  
**May we with gratitude bear witness to your love.**

*Leader* We ask these things in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
*People* **Amen.**

**Peace**

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

*Please greet one another with a 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*) Let us, now, share the offerings and oblations of our lives to the glory of God.

*Bread and wine are brought forward at this time, while the ushers pass the offering plates.*

**Offertory Hymn, #603**

When Christ was lifted from the earth

*The Hymnal 1982*

*The offering is brought forward at this time.*

**Offertory Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray,  
*People* **All things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

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

*Celebrant* It is right and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere  
to give thanks to you, God our Creator and Lover.  
You make all things and call them good.  
You love us into being,  
you form us in your image,  
and breathe into us the breath of life.  
When we turn away, and our love fails,  
your love remains steadfast.  
You deliver us from captivity,  
and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey.  
You set before us the way of life.  
And so, with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus, S128**

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven 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.

### 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, O 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  
People*

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

**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  
People*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## 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 Bearers will follow the Priest with the chalice of wine. You are invited to sip from the cup but not to dip. 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

217 A hymn of glory

*The Hymnal 1982*

219 The Lord ascendeth up on high

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People*

Faithful God in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus 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*

## Postlude

"Fugue in D Major"

*by J.S. Bach*

## RESOURCES

Opening Acclamation & Post Communion Prayer: *Book of Occasional Services 2022*

Apostle's Creed: from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Prayers of the People: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

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

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## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
<b>Music Director</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Musicians</b>	The St. Bart's Choir
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Carla Hunt
<b>Lector</b>	Pal Covie
<b>Ushers</b>	Pam Hobson, Tom Hyndman
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Ann Hodsdon, Beth LaSalle
<b>Flower Arranger</b>	Carol Hayes
<b>A/V</b>	Pal Covie
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Chrystena Hahn
<b>Counters</b>	Tom Hyndman, Susie Soule
<b>Lawn Care</b>	Peter Chandler
<b>VPOW</b>	Ann Donaghy
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Imelda Schaefer & Alexandra Barr



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

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<b>Deacon:</b>	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
<b>Intern:</b>	Mary Curlew
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Michele Johns
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Laurie Hyndman
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
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