

St. James Anglican Church

Ascension Sunday – Sunday May 17th, 2026

Holy Eucharist and Anointing– 10 a.m.

Celebrant: Rev. Carol Hardie

Homilist: The Ven. John Anderson

Mr. Jeff Campbell, Director of Music

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. On the 40th day he took them to Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost. The disciples were told not to gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus but rather we are to find his presence amongst ourselves as we continue to build up the kingdom of God here on earth.

Outdoor Bagpipe Prelude

Organ Prelude “Have Thine Own Way Lord” *arr. Lani Smith*

Processional Hymn # 247 (CP) “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

Ascension

Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!

We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!

We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of

church and home, of help that is given and received.

We come to praise God for the blessings of community!

Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ's Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God's salvific work among us.

We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Thanks be to God! Amen. *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2025.*

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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 Gloria # 702 (CP)

Gathering Prayer

Holy God, send your promised Spirit of revelation and wisdom, so that, in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing with joy to the One who makes us one. **Amen.**

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading from 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 over the course of 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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading from Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Before the Gospel #715 (CP) "Alleluia"

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then he said to them, '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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24: 44-53

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel #715 (CP) "Alleluia"

Sermon: The Ven. John Anderson

Anthem: "We Are the People of God" *arr. Joseph M. Martin*
The St. James Choir

Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.

Prayers of the People

Beth Morum, *Lay Reader*

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn #245 (CP) "O Lord Most High, Eternal King"

Gonfalon Royal

The Eucharist

Prayer before Communion

Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer this day, and renew us in the transfigured life, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer # 3

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfilment of your promise, you pour forth your Spirit upon us, filling us with gifts and leading us into all truth. You give us power to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as royal priesthood. Therefore, we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus 732 (CP)

Community Mass/R. Proulx

All

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,

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

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Invitation to the Table

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

#747 (CP) "Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert/Proulx

The Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish communion but a blessing, please cross your arms and the priest will bless you. In the Anglican tradition wine is administered from a chalice or common cup. If you do not wish to receive from the chalice you can cross your arms, and the words of institution will be said. We do not practice intinction or dipping the bread in the cup.

Music During Communion

Hymn

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Table of Grace

V1

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

V2

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.

V3

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.

V4

Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.

V5

Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.

Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Spiritual

V1

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees; when I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

V2

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees; when I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

V3

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees; when I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Anthem

“Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether”

arr. Harold W. Friedell

The St. James Choir

Prayer after Communion

Eternal Giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God,
whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn #246 (CP) "Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus"
In Babilone

Dismissal

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves! And go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sung Benediction "May the Lord Bless You" *J. Hunnicutt*

May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you; may the Lord lift up his face to shine on you. May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you; may the Lord lift up his face to shine on you.

Organ & Bagpipe Duet "The Meeting of the Waters" *Traditional*

Alan Cooper, Bagpipes; Jeff Campbell, Pipe Organ

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