

The Community of St Stephen Walbrook



Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day

12.45pm Thursday 13th May 2021

Celebrant and preacher: Revd Stephen Baxter, Priest-in-Charge

Choir: The Choral Scholars

Director: Gabriella Noble

Organist: Polina Sosnina

Mass setting: Mass no.7 in B-flat major ("Little Organ Mass") by Joseph Haydn

Image on cover: Ascension by Giotto di Bondone c.1305

Introit: Lift up your heads, O ye gates (from Messiah) by GF Handel (1685-1759)

The Welcome

God has gone up with a merry noise, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet
Psalm 47, verse 5

**Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

The choir sings the Kyrie

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

The Ministry of the Word

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Let us pray

The Collect

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Epistle: 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.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Luke 24:44-end

The holy Gospel is written in the 24th chapter of the Gospel according to St John, beginning at the 44th verse.

Glory be to thee, O Lord

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.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise be to thee, O Christ

Address

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The choir sings

The Offertory Hymn

No collection will be taken during the service, however we would be very grateful if you would make a donation to the work of the church at the end of the service by cash or contactless payment.

Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!,
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!
Take the King of glory in. Alleluya!

See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluya!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves: Alleluya!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluya!
Still he calls mankind his own. Alleluya!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluya!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!

Charles Wesley (1707-88) and Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823)

Tune: Llanfair with melody by Robert Williams of Anglesey (1781-1821)

Intercessions

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Merciful Father
Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God.

The Confession

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
we acknowledge and bewail
our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we, from time to time,
most grievously have committed,
by thought, word and deed,
against thy divine majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath
and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of thy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Absolution

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of his great mercy
hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that
with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him:
have mercy upon you;
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Comfortable Words

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

(St. Matt. xi. 28)

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(St. John iii. 16)

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume

to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness,

but in thy manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up

the crumbs under thy table.

But thou art the same Lord,

whose property is always to have mercy:

grant us therefore, gracious Lord,

so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,

and to drink his blood,

that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,

and our souls washed through his most precious blood,

and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God

It is meet and right so to do

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,

that we should at all times, and in all places,

give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father,

almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we laud and magnify thy glorious name,

evermore praising thee, and singing:

The choir sings the Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood:

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father almighty, world without end. **Amen**

And now as our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, which art in heaven
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,**

in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

The distribution of Holy Communion

*You are warmly invited to receive the bread of communion.
Please sanitise your hands at the back of the church and then gather socially
distanced around the altar either kneeling or standing.*

The choir sings the Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and all those whom you love, today and always. **Amen.**

Anthem: O clap your hands by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Week commencing 17th May 2021 at St Stephen Walbrook

The church is open for private prayer from 10.30am-3.30pm on Tuesday to Thursday this week

Monday

1pm - Video recording of Choral Classics available on website

Tuesday

1pm – Walbrook Music Trust Concert – The Promethean Trio

Works by Bridge, Suk, Shostakovich

Audio file of Start:Stop reflection released on website

Wednesday

9am - Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer by conference call.

All welcome to dial in:

Free dial-in on 0330 9981 320 - access code: 464351#

1pm – Recital - Gabriella Noble (Mezzo) and Polina Sosnina (Piano)

Fünf Lieder by Alma Mahler; Frauenliebe und Leben by Schumann

Thursday

12.15-12.35pm – Choral Classics – music & readings with The Choral Scholars

12.45-1.30pm – Sung Eucharist

6.30–7.30pm – Time & Space – opportunity for chat closing with Compline

All welcome to join: please contact priest@ststephenwalbrook.net for link.

Saturday

Video of Sung Eucharist released on website

Morning and Night are available every day through the London Internet Church section of the church's website: <https://ststephenwalbrook.net/internet-church/>

Contact:

Website: <https://ststephenwalbrook.net>

Email: priest@ststephenwalbrook.net

Phone: 07739658327

QR code for making donations to the work of the church

