



THE CHURCH  
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

# The Order for Morning Prayer

## The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Ascension

May 24, 2020

### Opening Sentences

*Officiant* Alleluia. ✝ Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Officiant* Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands,  
which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself,  
now to appear in the presence of God for us. *Hebrews 9:24*

### Confession of Sin

¶ *The Officiant says*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

¶ *Officiant and People, all kneeling*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;  
And there is no health in us.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,

restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

¶ *The Officiant alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution ✠ and remission of all your sins,  
true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *All stand*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*All* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

¶ *All say the Pascha nostrum together, as follows*

Alleluia;

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, \*  
therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven,  
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, \*  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; \*  
death hath no more dominion over him.

For in that he died, he died unto sin once; \*  
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, \*  
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ is risen from the dead, \*  
and become the first fruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, \*  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \*  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

*¶ All are then seated for the Psalm appointed for the day*

**Psalm 47**

*Omnes gentes, plaudite*

O clap your hands together, all ye peoples: \*  
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

For the Lord is high, and to be feared; \*  
he is the great King upon all the earth.

He shall subdue the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.

He shall choose out an heritage for us, \*  
even the excellency of Jacob, whom he loved.

God is gone up with a merry noise, \*  
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.

O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; \*  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

For God is the King of all the earth: \*  
sing ye praises with understanding.

God reigneth over the nations; \*  
God sitteth upon his holy seat.

The princes of the peoples are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham; \*  
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth,  
as it were with a shield.

*¶ At the conclusion of the Psalmody the Gloria Patri is said by all*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

# The Lessons

## The First Lesson

ACTS 1:1-11

**I**N THE FIRST BOOK, O THE-OPH'ILUS, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "You heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth." And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

### Canticle *Gloria in excelsis*

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory ✠ of God the Father. Amen.

*¶ All are seated*

## The Second Lesson

LUKE 24:44-53

**T**HEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are 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 blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

*¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

## Canticle

*Dignus es*

REVELATION 4:11; 5:9-10, 13

Thou art worthy, O Lord,  
to receive glory and honor and power:  
For thou hast created all things,  
and for thy pleasure they are and were created.  
Thou art worthy, O Lamb that wast slain,  
and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood  
Out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;  
and hast made us unto our God kings and priests.  
Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power  
be unto him that sitteth upon the throne  
And unto the Lamb  
for ever and ever.  
  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*¶ All remain standing for the Apostles' Creed*

## The Apostles' Creed

*¶ Said by the Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, †  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*¶ The Officiant and People say the following*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*¶ Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is said by all, kneeling*

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.  
Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages, said by the Officiant and People*

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*People* And grant us thy salvation.

*Officiant* Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*People* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Officiant* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*People* For only in thee can we live in safety.

*Officiant* Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

*People* And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

*Officiant* Let thy way be known upon earth;

*People* Thy saving health among all nations.

*Officiant* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*People* Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

*Officiant* Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*People* And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

## The Collects

**G**RANT, 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. ¶ *People Amen.*

**O**GOD, WHO MAKEST US GLAD with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ *People Amen.*

**O**GOD, WHO HAST MADE OF ONE BLOOD all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee; bring the nations into thy fold; pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ *People Amen.*

## The General Thanksgiving

*¶ Said by the Officiant and People together*

**A**Lmighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants do give  
thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to  
us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*¶ Said by the Officiant*

**A**Lmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make  
our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved  
Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the  
midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be  
best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life  
everlasting. *¶ People Amen.*

*¶ All stand*

## Benedicamus Domino

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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



## The Grace

¶ *Officiant*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. ¶ *People Amen.*

## Anthem

Coelos ascendit hodie,  
Jesus Christus Rex gloriae: Alleluia.  
Sedet ad Patris dexteram,  
gubernat coelum et terram: Alleluia.  
Jam finem habent omnia,  
Patris Davidis camina: Alleluia.  
Jam Dominus cum Domino: Alleluia.  
Sedet in Dei solio, in hoc triumpho maximo: Alleluia.  
Benedicamus Domino, laudatur Sancto Trinitas,  
Deo dicamus gratias: Alleluia.

*Today Jesus Christ, the King of glory,  
has ascended into the heavens: Alleluia.  
He sits at the Father's right hand,  
ruling heaven and earth: Alleluia.  
Now are David's songs fulfilled: Alleluia.  
Now is the Lord with his Lord: Alleluia.  
He sits upon the royal throne of God: Alleluia,  
in his greatest triumph: Alleluia.  
Let us bless the Lord; Let us praise the Holy Trinity,  
Let us give thanks to the Lord: Alleluia.*

*Words: Anonymous Prosa  
Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

## Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem

## Closing Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

¶ *All kneel*

¶ *Then Prayers and Intercessions are offered*

## The Ascensiontide Blessing

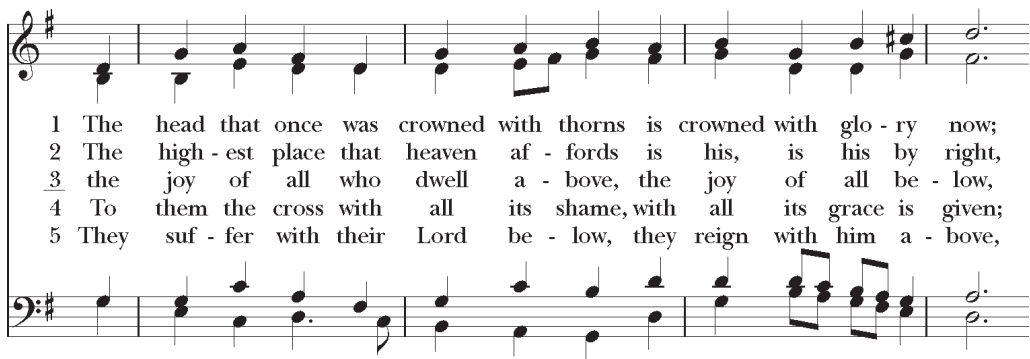
**G**OD THE FATHER, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. ¶ *People Amen.*

God the Son, our great high priest, who has passed into the heavens, clothe you with power from on high. ¶ *People Amen.*

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful followers of the risen Christ. ¶ *People Amen.*

And the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. ¶ *People Amen.*

## Hymn



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;  
2 The high - est place that heaven af - fords is his, is his by right,  
3 the joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low,  
4 To them the cross with all its shame, with all its grace is given;  
5 They suf - fer with their Lord be - low, they reign with him a - bove,

1 a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.  
 2 the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heaven's e - ter - nal Light;  
 3 to whom he man - i - fests his love and grants his name to know.  
 4 their name, an ev - er - last - ing name; their joy, the joy of heaven.  
 5 their prof - it and their joy to know the mys - tery of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,  
 though shame and death to him:  
 his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
 their everlasting theme.

Words: Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Music: ST. MAGNUS, Melody from XXXXX, 1707; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889),  
 after John Pyke Hullah (19th cent.)

## *Liturgical Music*

The organ music at this morning's liturgy is drawn from the *Festal Toccata* of Arthur Baynon (1889-1954). The music prior to the liturgy is the middle section, marked *Moderato*. The final section of the piece, *Allegro vivace*, is played at the conclusion of the liturgy. It was recorded at the Church of St. Michael & St. George by Robert Lehman, Organist and Choirmaster.

The anthem *Coelos ascendit hodie* by Charles Villiers Stanford was recorded in the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC by The Woodley Ensemble, conducted by Robert Lehman.

Today is our second effort at "virtual" hymn singing. An expanded group of singers – members of the CSMSG Choir along with friends and alums of the Choir – have recorded solo vocal tracks in the privacy of their homes and have contributed the sound file of themselves singing their own part. These files were collected and mixed to achieve the result you hear. Please sing along with us!



## THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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6345 Wydown Boulevard

P.O. Box 11887

St. Louis, MO 63105

*[www.csmsg.org](http://www.csmsg.org)*

The Rev. Andrew John Archie	RECTOR
The Rev. Peter James Speropulos	ASSISTANT RECTOR
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	ASSISTANT RECTOR
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey	PRIEST ASSOCIATE
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem	PRIEST ASSOCIATE
Dr. Robert Wylie Lehman	ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER
Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler	ASSOCIATE ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER
Kathleen Guilfooy Beyers	ASSISTANT CHOIRMASTER