

Morning Prayer
Wednesday May 17 2023
Book of Alternative Services
Eve of the Ascension

The Gathering of the Community

Introductory Responses

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Priest Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
People **He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Priest Rejoice, then, even in your distress.
People **We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**

Priest God has claimed us as his own.
People **He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

All **Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

Silent prayer and recollection of sins.

Priest Most merciful God,
All **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.**

Priest 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.
People **Amen.**

The Invitatory

Priest Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed:
People **O come, let us worship.**

Song from Jeremiah *Jeremiah 31.10–14*

BAS 79

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; * tell it on the far-off shores:
“He who scattered Israel will gather * and guard them as a shepherd his flock.”
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, * redeemed them from a foe too strong.
They will come and sing for joy on Zion’s height, * radiant at the bounty of the Lord:
the grain, the new wine, the oil, * the young of flock and herd.
Their life like a watered garden, * they will never want again.
Then will maidens show their joy in the dance; * men, young and old, will rejoice.
I shall turn their mourning into gladness, * give comfort and joy for their sorrow.
I shall satisfy the priests with abundance, * and fill my people with my bounty.

Priest Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed:
People **O come, let us worship.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading **Baruch 3.24-37**

Reader A reading from the Book of Baruch.

O Israel, how great is the house of God,
how vast the territory that he possesses!
It is great and has no bounds;
it is high and immeasurable.
The giants were born there, who were famous of old,
great in stature, expert in war.
God did not choose them,
or give them the way to knowledge;
so they perished because they had no wisdom,
they perished through their folly.

Who has gone up into heaven, and taken her,
and brought her down from the clouds?
Who has gone over the sea, and found her,
and will buy her for pure gold?
No one knows the way to her,
or is concerned about the path to her.
But the one who knows all things knows her,
he found her by his understanding.
The one who prepared the earth for all time
filled it with four-footed creatures;
the one who sends forth the light, and it goes;
he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling;
the stars shone in their watches, and were glad;

he called them, and they said, 'Here we are!'
They shone with gladness for him who made them.
This is our God;
no other can be compared to him.
He found the whole way to knowledge,
and gave her to his servant Jacob
and to Israel, whom he loved.
Afterwards she appeared on earth
and lived with humankind.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119.97-120 BAS 875

97 Oh, how I love your law! * **all the day long it is in my mind.**
98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, * **and it is always with me.**
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, * **for your decrees are my study.**
100 I am wiser than the elders, * **because I observe your commandments.**
101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, * **that I may keep your word.**
102 I do not shrink from your judgements, * **because you yourself have taught me.**
103 How sweet are your words to my taste! * **they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.**
104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; * **therefore I hate every lying way.**

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet * **and a light upon my path.**
106 I have sworn and am determined * **to keep your righteous judgements.**
107 I am deeply troubled; * **preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.**
108 Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, * **and teach me your judgements.**
109 My life is always in my hand, * **yet I do not forget your law.**
110 The wicked have set a trap for me, * **but I have not strayed from your commandments.**
111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; * **truly, they are the joy of my heart.**
112 I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes * **for ever and to the end.**

113 I hate those who have a divided heart, * **but your law do I love.**
114 You are my refuge and shield; * **my hope is in your word.**
115 Away from me, you wicked! * **I will keep the commandments of my God.**
116 Sustain me according to your promise, that I may live, * **and let me not be disappointed in my hope.**
117 Hold me up, and I shall be safe, * **and my delight shall be ever in your statutes.**
118 You spurn all who stray from your statutes; * **their deceitfulness is in vain.**
119 In your sight all the wicked of the earth are but dross; * **therefore I love your decrees.**
120 My flesh trembles with dread of you; * **I am afraid of your judgements.**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading Luke 12.22-31

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Affirmation of Faith

Priest Let us confess our faith, as we say,

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions

Collect of the Day

Priest Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Collect for Parish Renewal of Faith

Priest Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth: bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the members of our Cathedral community; fill our hearts and minds with your vision for our life together and unite us all in your love that we may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your reign in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
Our Father in heaven,

All **hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be upon you this day and forever.

People **Amen.**

Priest Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**