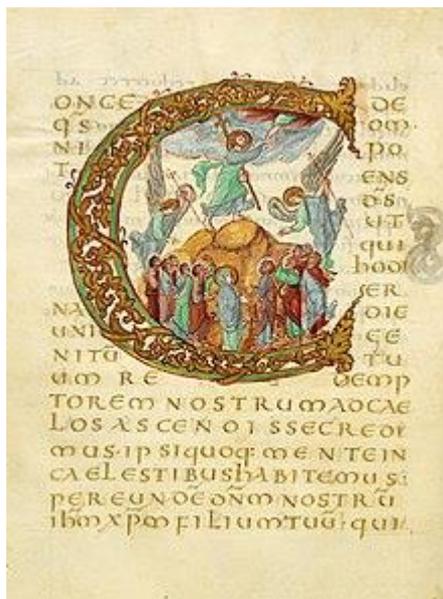


Sunday, May 24, 2020– Christ’s Church Cathedral

“GOD HAS GONE UP”

A HYMN FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE
THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION



Drogo Sacramentary
from the year 860

A hymn or song of praise reminds us of who God is and what we have been promised. It helps us to put word and emotion around a sense that our faith is fueled by statements which often can only be communicated through emotion to be felt by the soul. And so, a hymn festival is an occasion centered on these hymns and songs of praise— songs sung in community gathering our prayer and praises into one.

*Today’s hymn festival calls forth the story of the **Ascension of Jesus**. Acts 1:9-11, in the Latin refers to this Feast as “Ascensio Iesu”. This special celebration on the 40th day after Easter, transferred to the following Sunday, is the physical departure of Christ from Earth into the presence of God in Heaven. Acts tells how Jesus leads the eleven disciples to Bethany, a village on the Mount of Olives, where he instructs them to remain in Jerusalem until the coming of the Holy Spirit: “And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”*

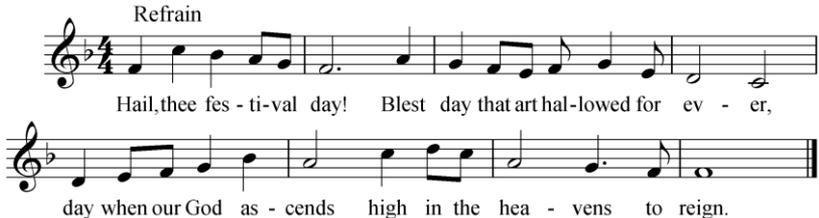
Commentary

Hymn – Hail Thee Festival Day

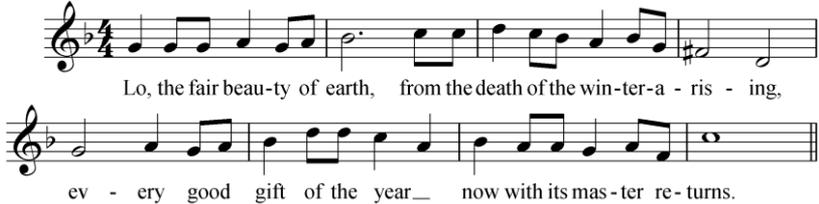
Text: Bishop Venantius Fortunatus (535-609)

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams. SALVE FESTE DIES

Refrain

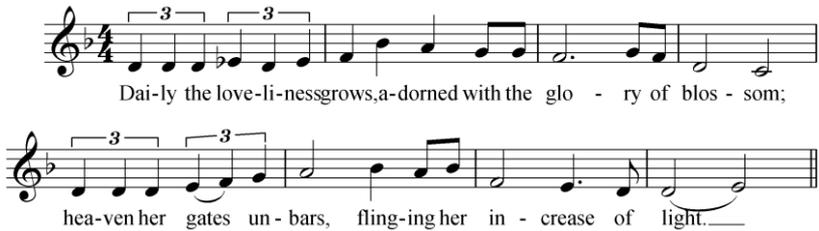


Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
day when our God as - cends high in the hea - vens to reign.



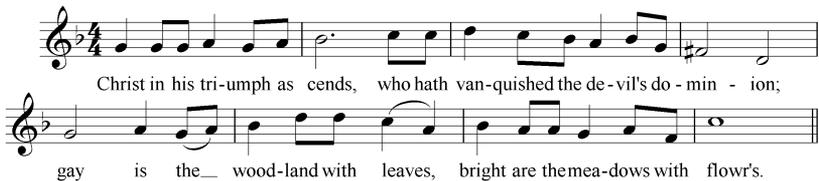
Lo, the fair beau - ty of earth, from the death of the win - ter - a - ris - ing,
ev - ery good gift of the year_ now with its mas - ter re - turns.

Refrain



Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the glo - ry of blos - som;
hea - ven her gates un - bars, fling - ing her in - crease of light.

Refrain



Christ in his tri - umph as cends, who hath van - quished the de - vil's do - min - ion;
gay is the_ wood - land with leaves, bright are the mea - dows with flow'r's.

Refrain

Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
 day when our God as - cends high in the hea - vens to reign.
 Je - sus the health of the world, en - ligh - ten our minds, thou Re deem - er,
 Son of the Fa - ther su - preme, on - ly be - got - ten of God! —

Refrain

Commentary

Hymn – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Text: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

Music: George Job Elvey (1816-1893). DIADEMATA

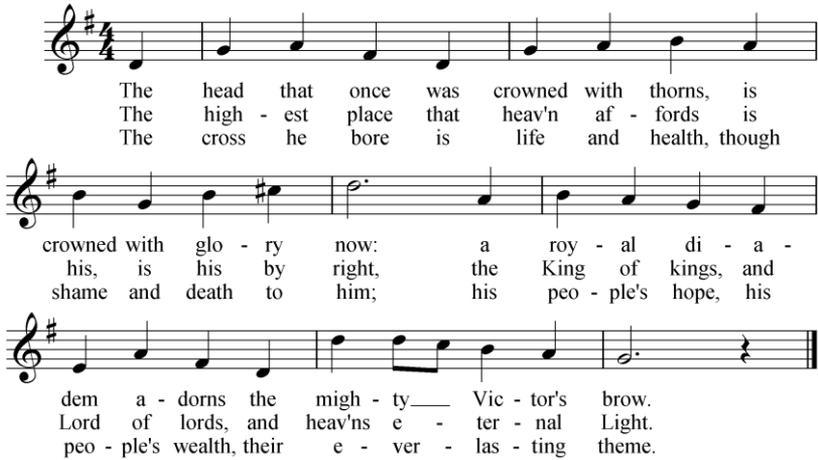
Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb u - pon his throne. hark,
 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
 Crown him the Lord of peace whospower a scep - tre sways from
 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich
 how the heav - en - ly an them, drowns all mu - sic but its own. A -
 rose vis - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save, His
 pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise. His
 wounds, yet vis - a - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied. All
 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high, who
 reign shall kow no end; and round his pierc - ed feet fair
 hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me; thy
 hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Commentary

Hymn – The Head that Once was crowned with thorns

Text: Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Music: attrib. Jeremiah Clarke (1670-1707). ST. MAGNUS



The head that once was crowned with thorns, is
The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is
The cross he bore is life and health, though
crowned with glo - ry now: a roy - al di - a -
his, is his by right, the King of kings, and
shame and death to him; his peo - ple's hope, his
dem a - dorns the migh - ty Vic - tor's brow.
Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal Light.
peo - ple's wealth, their e - ver - las - ting theme.

The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
To whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame
with all its grace, is given,
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven

They suffer with their Lord below
they reign with him above
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.

Commentary

Hymn – Holy forever and ever is God

Text: John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1956-2019)

Music: John L. Bell (b. 1949). COLBOOTH



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff covers the first four lines of text. The second staff covers the next four lines. The third staff covers the final four lines. The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly visible. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

Ho - ly for - ev - er and ev - er is God,
Praise to our Ma - ker and Mo - ver we sing,
Wor - thy are you who, by shedd - ing your blood,
Wor - thy the Lamb who was sen - tenced and slain!
Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and might

o - ver all crea - tures the so - ver - eign Lord, who was, and
glo - ry and hon - our and bless - ing we bring; all our ex -
brought from all na - tions a peo - ple for God. Folk of all
Wor - thy the Lamb in his ri - sing a - gain! Wor - thy of
be to the Lamb on the throne, as is right. Let earth and

is, and who is yet to come. Al - le - lu - ia!
is - tence de - pends on the Lord.
ra - ces you call to be priests.
pow - er and wis - dom and wealth,
hea - ven u - nite to ex - claim.

Commentary

Hymn: Come see the lord

Text: Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)

Music: George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987). JESMIAN



Come, see the Lord in his breath - ta - king splen - dour:
He is the Word who was sent_ by the Fa - ther,
He is the Lamb who was slain_ to re - deem us
He is the Lord who as - cen - ded in tri - umph
Come, see the Lord in his breath - ta - king splen - dour:



gaze at his ma - jes - ty bow and a - dore!
born as a ba - by, a child of our race:
there at the cross his ap - pear - ance was marred;
ev - er the sound of his prai - ses shall ring!
gaze at his ma - jes - ty bow and a - dore!



En - ter his pres - ence with won - der and wor - ship
God_ here a - mong us, re - vealed as a ser - vant,
though he e - merged from the grave as a vic - tor,
Hail_ him the First and the Last, the Al - migh - ty:
Come_ and ack - now - ledge him Sa - viour and So - vereign:



he_ is the King, and en - throned ev - er - more.
walk - ing the path - way of truth and of grace.
still_ from the nails and the spear he is scarred.
Je - sus our Pro - phet, our Priest and our King.
Je - sus our King is en - throned ev - er - more.

Commentary

Hymn: Hail the Day that sees him rise

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) alt.

Music: melody Robert Williams (1781-1821). LLANFAIR



Hail the day that sees him rise, al - le - lu - ia!
There for him high tri-umph waits.
High-est heaven its Lord re - ceives.
See he lifts his hands a - bove,
Still for us he in - ter - cedes

to his throne a - bove the skies; al - le - lu - ia!
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates.
yet he loves the earth he leaves.
See he shows the prints of love;
his pre - vail - ling death he pleads,

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, al - le - lu - ia!
he hath con - quered death and sin,
though re - turn - nig to his throne,
Hark his gra - cious lips be - stow
near him - self pre - pares our place,

en - ters_ now the high-est heaven al - le - lu - ia!
take the_ King of glo - ry in.
still he_ calls the world his own.
bless ings_ on his church be - low.
he the_ first fruits of our race.

Prayer of Parting *(said by all)*

God of majesty,
whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be with all your people who employ art and music for your praise,
that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty;
and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection
which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. Amen.

The Dismissal *(all respond with the bold text)*

The love that raised Jesus from the dead be at work within you.
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

Organ – “Von Gott will ich nicht lassen” BWV 658 – Johann Sebastian Bach

NEXT SUNDAY: EVENING PRAYER FOR
THE FEAST OF PENTECOST
Canon Terry DeForest, homilist

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