

May 24, 2020

**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**

10 a.m.

**Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day  
Holy Eucharist Rite II**

Prelude: Now we pray to the Holy Ghost BuxWV 208

D. Buxtehude

*Celebrant:* Alleluia!! Christ is risen!

**People:** The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Opening Hymn #214 Hail the day that sees him rise**

vss. 1,2,4

*Llanfair*

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!  
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!  
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

Lord beyond our mortal sight,  
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!  
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!  
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!

Collect for Purity

*BCP, p.355*

**Hymn of Praise: #719**

O beautiful for spacious skies

*Materna*

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed hi grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God mend thy every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.  
And alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,  
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed hi grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

**Collect of the Day Prayed together:**

**O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us**

to that place where our Savior Christ is gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### *The Word of God*

First Reading:

Acts 1:6-14

WHEN THE APOSTLES 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*The Lector concludes:* The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36** *Prayed responsively.*

*BCP p. 676-679*

- 1           **Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \***  
let those who hate him flee before him.
  
- 2           **Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \***  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
  
- 3           **But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \***  
let them also be merry and joyful.
  
- 4           **Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \***  
**YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!**
  
- 5           **Father of orphans, defender of widows, \***  
**God in his holy habitation!**
  
- 6           **God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \***  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
  
- 7           **O God, when you went forth before your people, \***  
when you marched through the wilderness,
  
- 8           **The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \***  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
  
- 9           **You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \***  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10                    **Your people found their home in it; \***  
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

33                    **Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \***  
**sing praises to the Lord.**

34                    **He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \***  
**he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

35                    **Ascribe power to God; \***  
**his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.**

36                    **How wonderful is God in his holy places! \***  
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!**

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

BELOVED, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Lector concludes:* The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #481 **Rejoice, the Lord is King!**

*Gospel*

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!**  
**Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.**  
**Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

**The Lord the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love:**  
**when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.**  
**Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

**His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;**  
**the keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.**  
**Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come,**  
**and take his servants up to their eternal home.**  
**Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

The Gospel: *The Gospeller:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John 17:1-11  
*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

JESUS LOOKED UP to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

*The Gospeller concludes:* The Gospel of the Lord. *People respond:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

*Harrison West†*

### **Nicene Creed**

**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;  
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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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: Form III

BCP, p.387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Remembering especially the clergy and people of the New Haven parishes of St. Paul & St. James, St. Thomas' and Trinity, St. James in New London and the world-wide Anglican Communion;  
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishops Ian and Laura, our Rector Harrison, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for your Holy Spirit to inspire with wisdom, decision-making to promote the health and well-being of all peoples, as we pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

We pray for those commended to the prayers of the parish; including all affected by the current pandemic, the homeless and the lonely, for those suffering from addictions, victims of violence, for those serving in the military, and their families; for the unemployed and the underemployed; and for those who are sick and suffering. Have compassion on them and on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble.  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Praying for the repose of Judith Benton, and of Laurie Brown and all those who have died from the Coronavirus:

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly Kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence.*

*Concluding Collect: Thanksgiving for Heroic Service, BCP, p.839*

The Peace

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

Announcements and Greetings

## *The Holy Communion*

The Offertory

Offertory solo: The trumpet shall sound (from "Messiah")

G. F. Handel

Mark Rehnstrom, baritone

**The Doxology: Hymn 380 (vs. 3)**

Presentation of Gifts

*Celebrant:* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People:* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer 3

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places,  
our true and loving God;

through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,

the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world

and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;

You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,

all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;

And so as the morning stars sing your praises

we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout[sing] with joy:

**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.**

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;

you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,

you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life,

to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a sacred offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, *you* have freed us from sin, brought us into your life,  
reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us  
Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,  
gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts  
your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*The Presider continues*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,  
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Stephen and all your people  
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People: Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN*

**Our Father in heaven,**

**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 in the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*BCP, p. 364*

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, I cannot now worship you at the altar of the church in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, yet in spirit I would join myself with all those who in your Holy Church offer you the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving., Visit me, I pray, with your mercy, pardon, and blessing, and fill me with faith and love and repentance, and so strengthen and sustain me by your grace that I may with pure heart and mind follow you, the only God, now and forever. Amen.

Communion solo: I lift my eyes, unto the mountains

Mark Rehnstrom

Postcommunion Prayer:

*BCP p.365*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Easter Blessing

Recessional Hymn #460 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

*Hyfrydol vss. 1,2,4*

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion on thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us, faith believes, no questions how:  
though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you ever more"?

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.

Dismissal: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia. *People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude: *Pièce d'orgue* (G major fantasy) BWV 572

J. S. Bach

Today's altar flowers are from Guilford gardens



Music note: Handel's Messiah was first performed in Dublin in 1741; it is based on texts from the King James Bible and the Coverdale Psalter, the version of the Psalms found in the Book of Common Prayer. **Our Offertory solo this morning** appears in Part III (the Easter part). It is a *da capo* aria, meaning that it is in ABA form, the beginning section being repeated after a contrasting middle section. In the interest of time we are singing only the A section; its text is drawn from 1 Corinthians 15:51–53: “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed.”

Mark Rehnstrom took the text for **this morning's Communion solo** from the first two verses of the familiar Psalm 121, which we prayed together back in Lent, but remains appropriate for our present times. Mark presents the text both in English translation and in Hebrew:

I lift my eyes, unto the mountains  
Where will I find my help?  
My help will come from my God,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

*Ehsa einai el heharim.  
Meiayin yavo ezri?  
Ezri meiim Adonai,  
Osei shamayim vaaretz.*

We will be marking the end of this part of the church year with three big organ pieces by ... Bach! (How did you guess?) Next week's celebration of Pentecost will conclude with the big *Fantasia* on *Komm, Heiliger Geist* ('Come, Holy Spirit'), and our Trinity Sunday service the following week will close with the big 'St. Anne' fugue.

**This morning's postlude**, known for years as the great G Major Fantasy until some scholar decreed we all had to now call it the *Piece d'Orgue*, is in many ways the major-key complement to the astounding G minor Fantasy which we heard this past Palm/Passion Sunday, in that in each case we seem to be overhearing Bach as he is improvising at the organ (for which he was renowned), and the result each time is music of intense expressivity. It starts cheerfully enough, with some sparkling, virtuosic passage work, which however leads directly into a dramatic, five-voiced chorale that threatens never to end. A descending four note motive permeates the upper voices of the chorale, while the pedal line constantly embarks on long upward scale lines, the opposition of which create long chains of suspensions (a note or notes held over from a previous measure which are now 'dissonant' with regard to the change in bass line and so require resolution). The result is music of great expressive power, and Bach builds the intensity throughout this section by avoiding any satisfying cadences, or, when one occurs, immediately barging ahead into a different key area. At a point near the end of this music, it appears as if Bach will finally relent, but, just at the very moment when we expect a big ol' V-I cadence in the tonic key, Bach fools us (again!) and instead the pedal starts its final long slow journey up the pedalboard, this time traveling a full two octaves, as the music rises to even greater intensity, culminating in a crushing diminished-seventh chord (the stereotypical 'scary organ music' chord—you'll know it immediately when you hear it!). The music that follows is absolutely otherworldly. With the pedal starting a slow descent down the pedalboard by half steps, whirling upward passages appear in the upper parts, which continue while the pedal, having reached low D on the pedalboard, repeats it 32 times. One last upward scale flourish in the manuals leads finally into the giant G major chord with which the piece closes. The Ascension might well have sounded something like that