



A Service of Morning Prayer for  
**Ascension Sunday (24 May)**

# A Prayer for Community

Once again, we enter into a virtual gathering place. We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person. We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite all the fear and darkness that pervades our world. God is with us. The Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a wind of hope and renewal. The risen Christ is present in our midst.



## Hymn 319: Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels around the throne; ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be exalted thus!” “Worthy the Lamb!” Our lips reply, “for he was slain for us.”

Jesus is worthy to receive honour and power divine; and blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, forever thine!

Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb!

# Territorial Acknowledgment

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

**May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.**

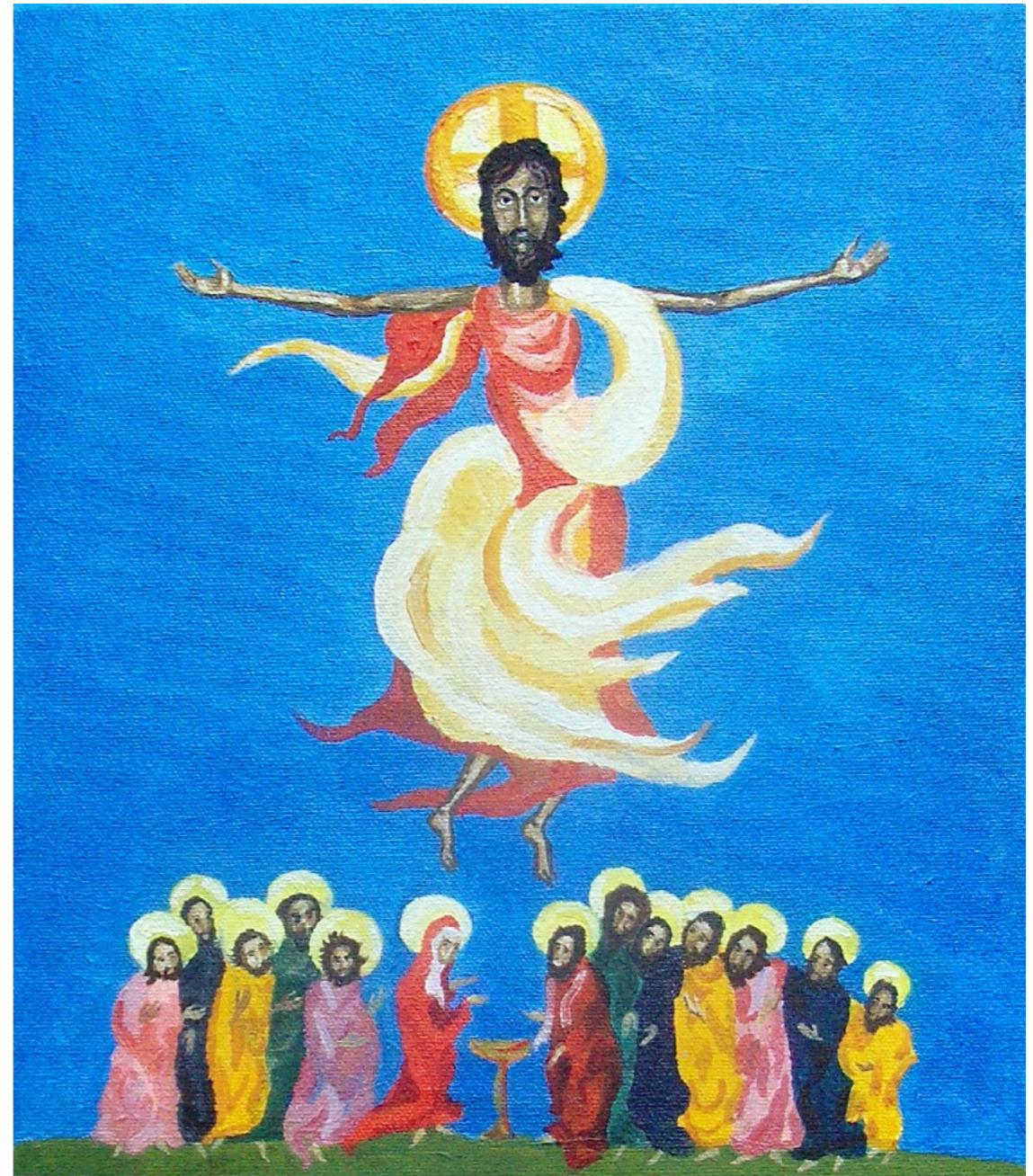


# Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy:

**Most merciful God, 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.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Opening Responses

Alleluia! Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven.

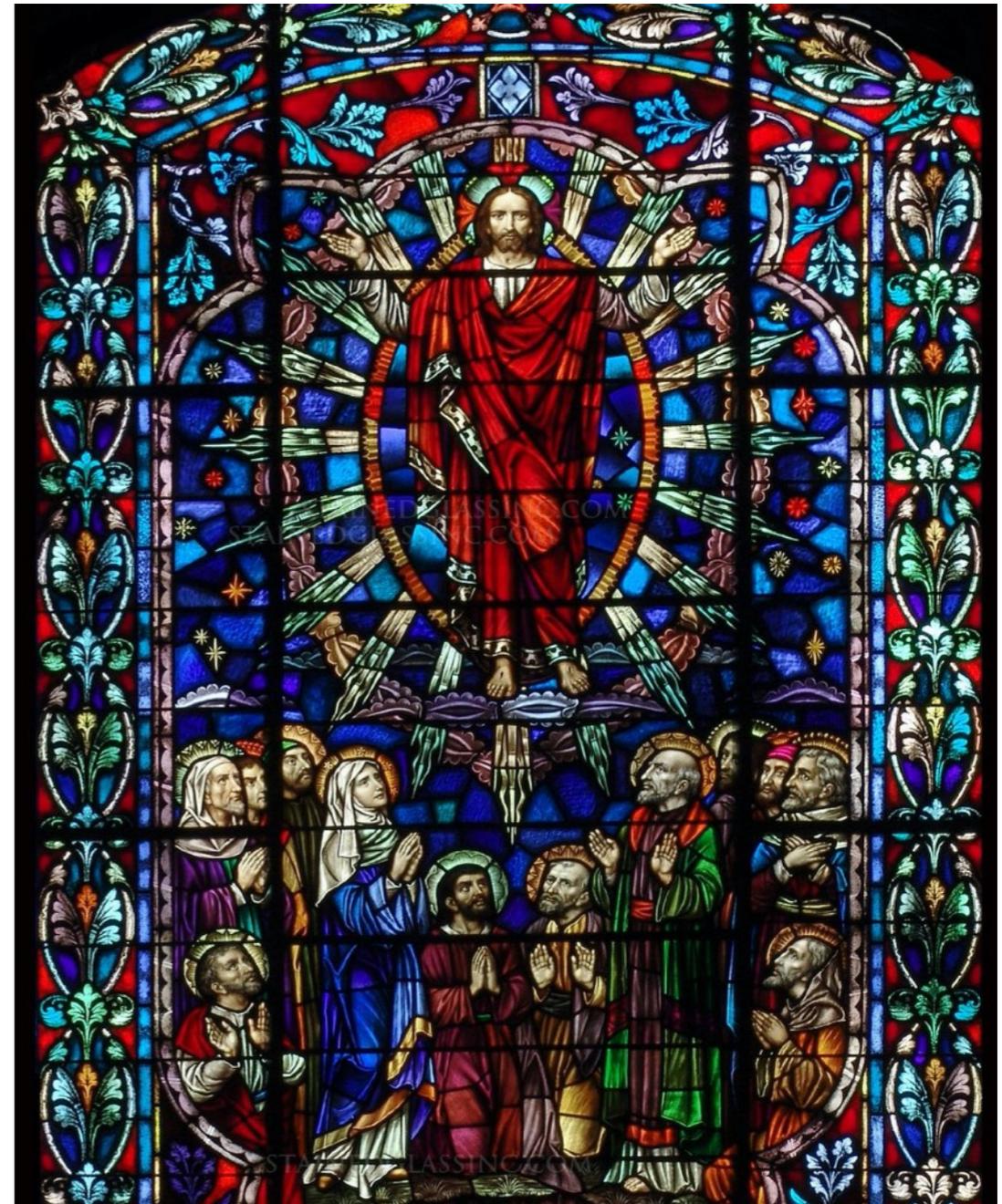
**We dwell in him and he in us.  
Alleluia!**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;  
**Make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to God, sing praises to God,  
**And speak of all his marvellous works.**

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

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,  
**Who was and is, and is to come. O, come let us worship. Alleluia!**



# Christ our Passover

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So also consider yourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

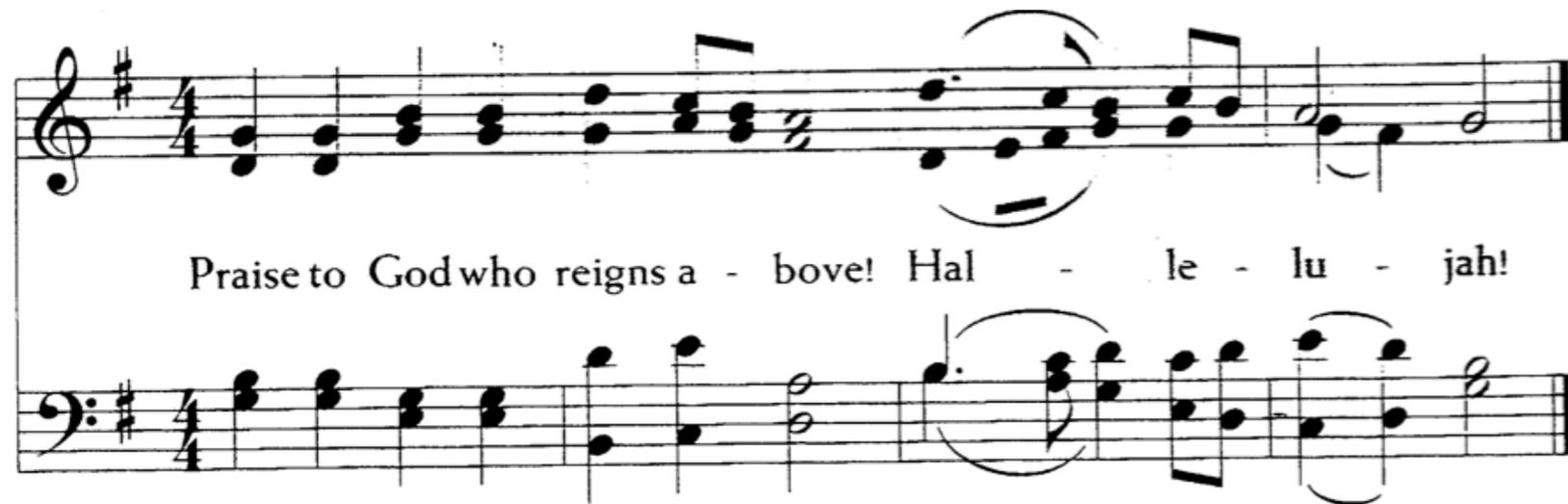
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



# Psalm 47



Clap your hands, all you peoples, cry out to God with shouts of joy! **For the Most High is to be feared, reigning in might, over all the earth.** *Refrain.*

God has subdued the peoples around us, set nations at our feet, **and has chosen us for his heritage, the pride of Jacob, beloved of God.**

God has gone up with shouts of triumph, **has gone up with a fanfare of trumpets.**

For God reigns over all the earth! **Sing praises with your utmost skill!** *Refrain.*

God reigns over all the nations, and sits in holiness enthroned. **The nobles of the nations assemble with the people of the Everlasting God.**

For earth's defenders belong to God, **to God the highly exalted.** *Refrain.*

# 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 during 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 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.”



# A Canticle of Thanksgiving

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust  
in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure  
defence, and he will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with  
rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord  
and call upon his name;

make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that  
his name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has  
done great things, and this is  
known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out  
your joy, for the great one in the midst of  
you is the Holy One of Israel.



# Ephesians 1:15-23

*(lue en Français)*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



# Hymn 374: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne. Alleluia!  
His the triumph, His the victory alone. Hark! The songs of  
peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood; “Jesus out of ev’ry  
nation has redeemed us by His blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now. Alleluia! He  
is near us; faith believes, nor 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 evermore?”

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay.  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

# Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to his disciples, “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 worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



# The Sermon

The Rev. Tim Smart, Regional  
Archdeacon of Brome-Missisquoi









# Confession of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, saying:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in  
heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts  
through faith, and fills us  
with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy  
Spirit, who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**



# Prayers of the People

The Rev. Deacon Judy Ball,  
Mansonville

*Response:* Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**



# The Collect of the Day

God unheld by word or wall, your  
Son Jesus Christ ascended to glory at  
your side. Lift us from dullness,  
fear, and cynical contempt; make us  
ready for your Spirit of transforming  
love; and turn our hearts to the  
mending of the world, through Jesus  
Christ, the name above all names.

**Amen.**



# The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

# Hymn 491: The Head that Once Was Crowned

God, whose form is all creation,  
The head that once was crowned  
with thorns is crowned with glory  
now; a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n  
affords is his, is his by right,  
the King of kings and Lord of  
lords, and heav'n's eternal Light:

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 giv'n;  
their name an everlasting name,  
their joy the joy of heav'n.

They suffer with the Lord below,  
they reign with him above;  
their profit and their joy to know  
the myst'ry of his love.

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.

# Blessing and Dismissal

May the ascended Christ, who is human and divine, who is of earth and also of heaven, lift up your hearts, minds, and lives to God. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the ascended Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the ascended Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



**Ca va bien aller !**

**Faith! Hope!!  
Love!!!**

